

Superman

SUPERMAN

Post-**CRISIS**
ON INFINITE EARTHS

Post-**CRISIS**

The Man of Steel

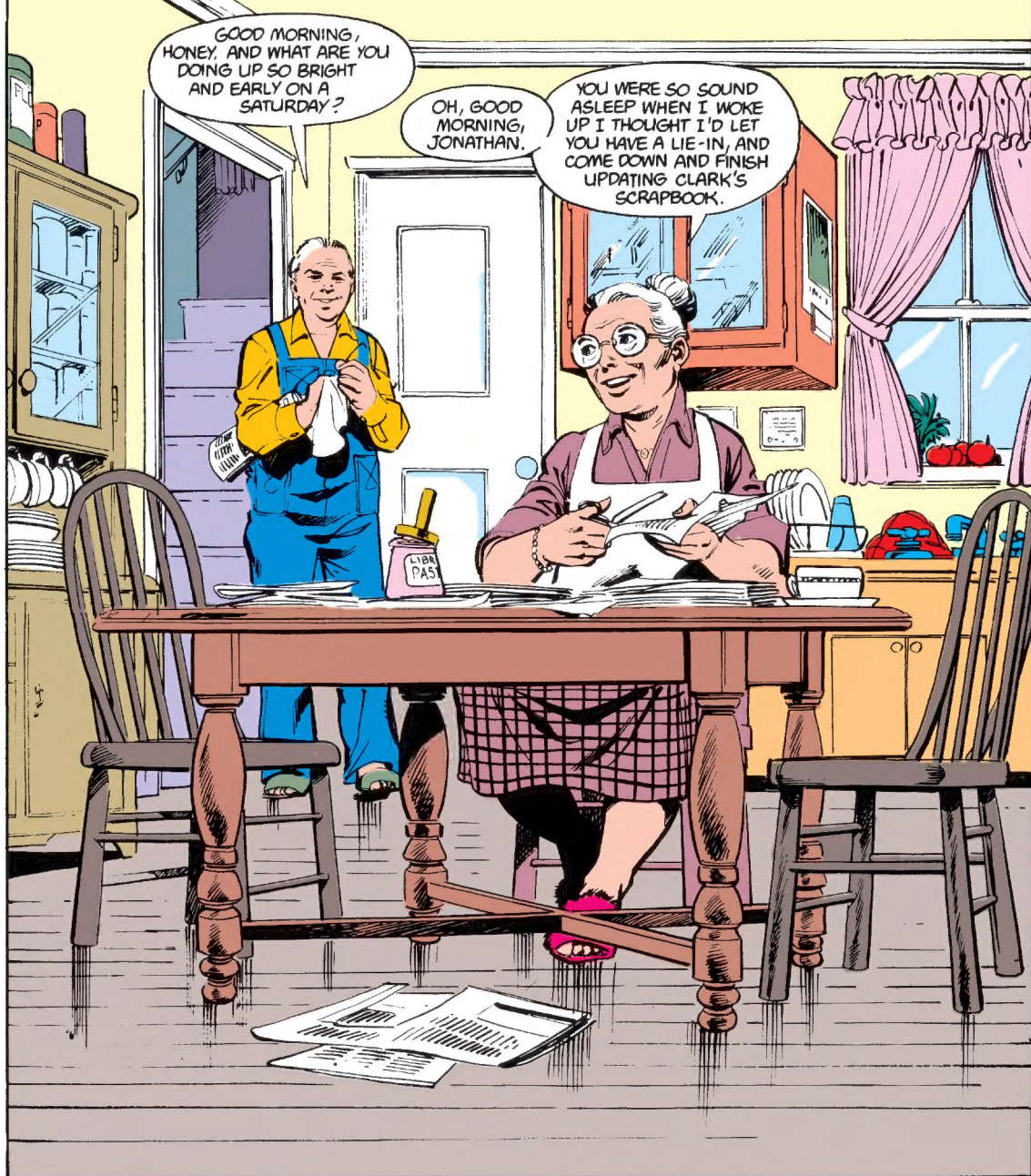
The Man Of Steel

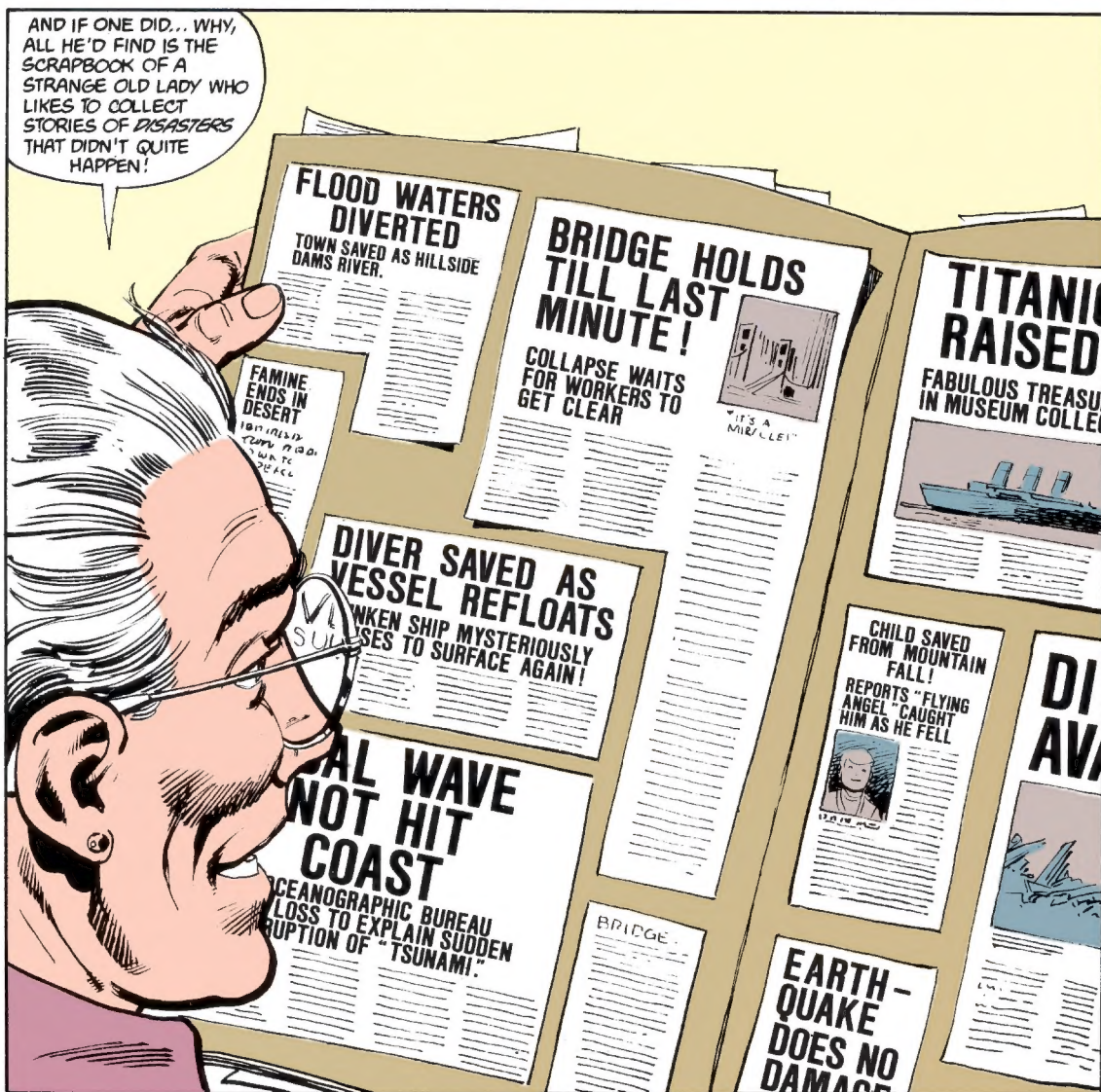
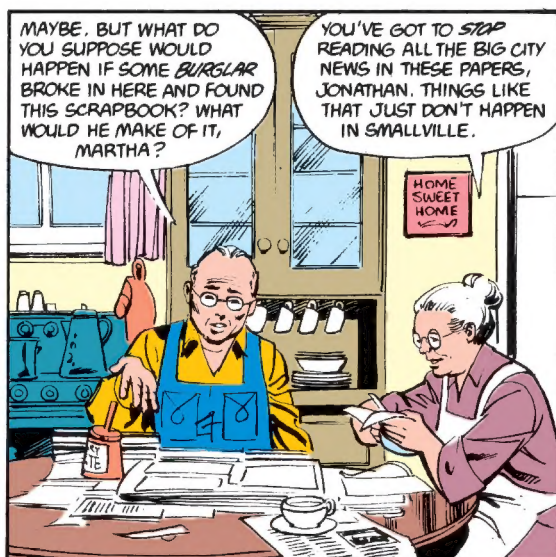
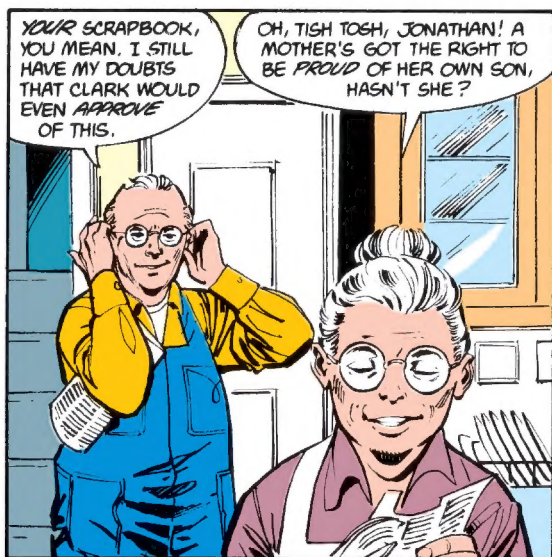
Volume
3

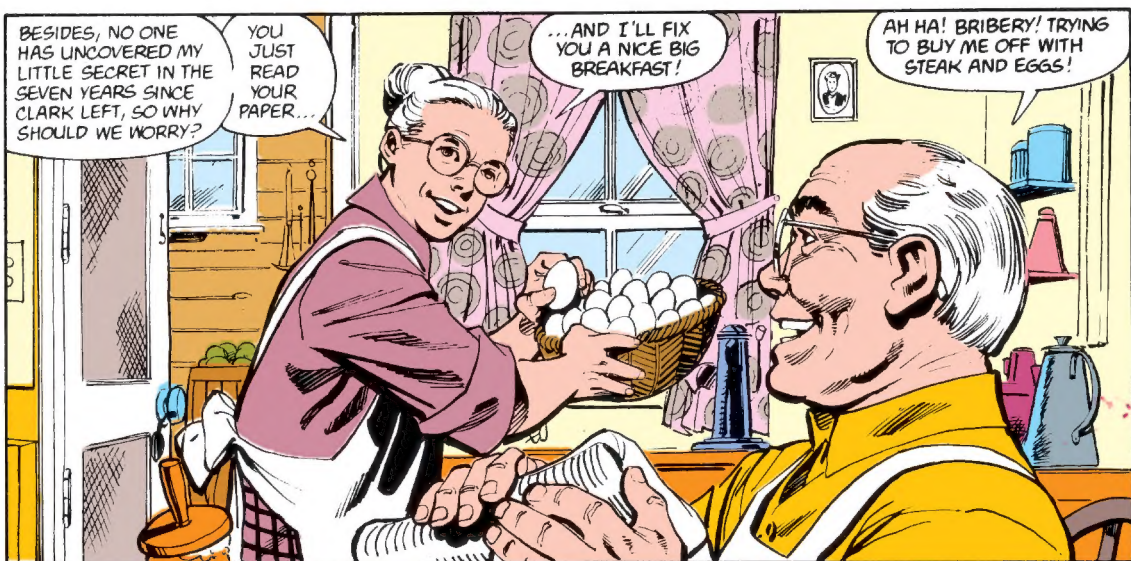
SUPERMAN.

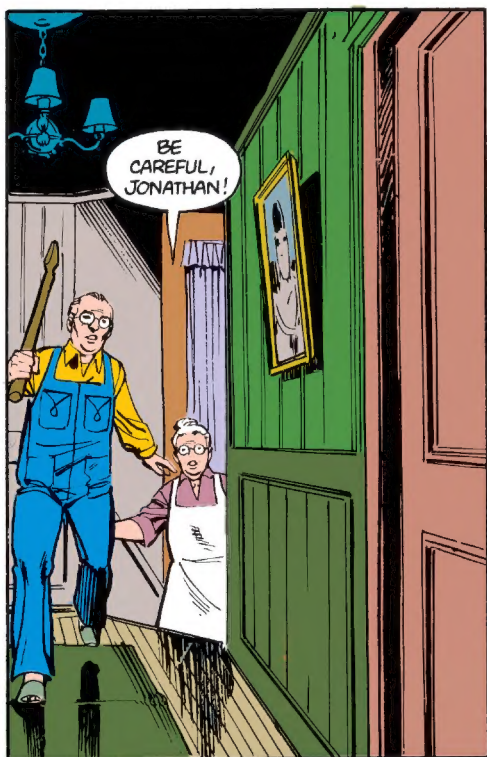
CHAPTER TWO:

THE EXPOSURE









THEY WANTED
A PIECE OF
ME, PA.



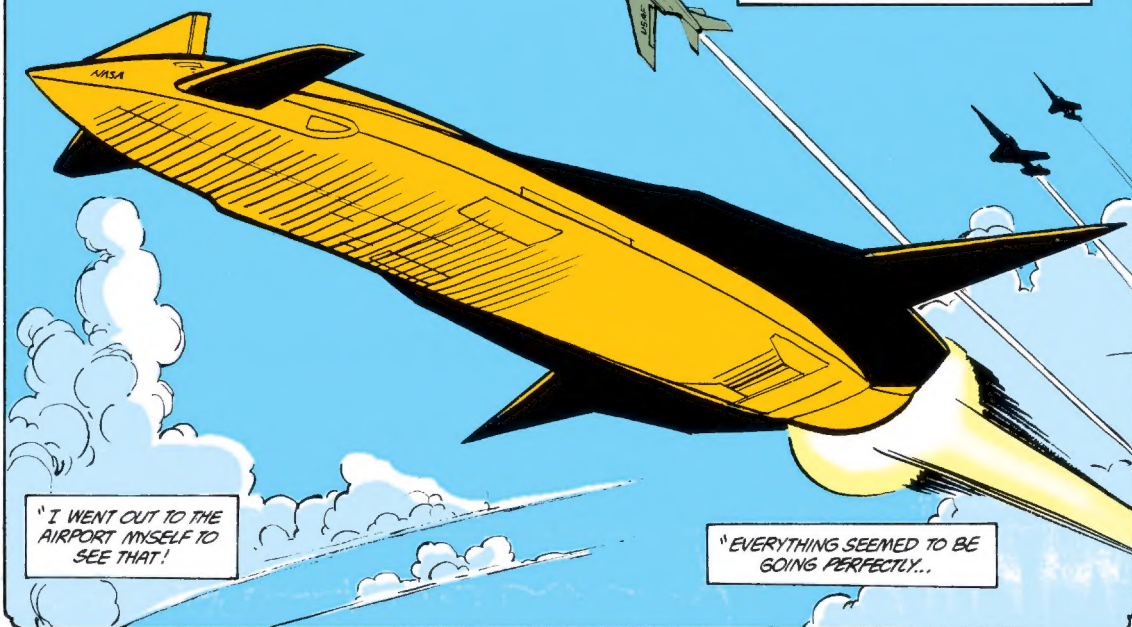
"YOU KNOW I'VE BEEN MAKING METROPOLIS MORE OR LESS MY HOME BASE FOR ABOUT THREE YEARS NOW, PA."

"IT'S A GREAT TOWN. BIG. EXCITING. IT REALLY FEELS LIKE HOME."



"WELL, YESTERDAY METROPOLIS WAS ALL SET TO CAP OFF THE CELEBRATIONS FOR HER TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY."

"SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE TO HAVE THE EXPERIMENTAL SPACE-PLANE CONSTITUTION LAND AT METROPOLIS INTERNATIONAL."

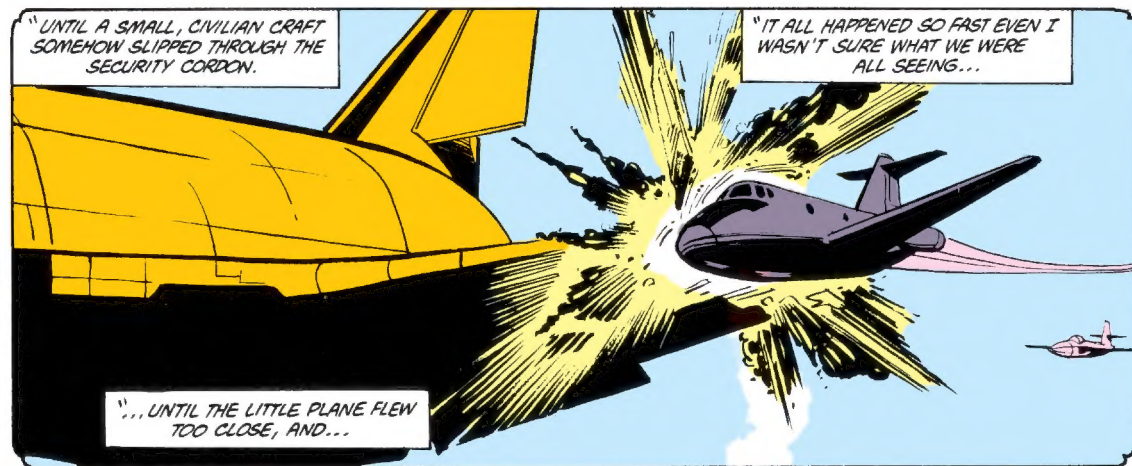


"I WENT OUT TO THE AIRPORT MYSELF TO SEE THAT!"

"EVERYTHING SEEMED TO BE GOING PERFECTLY..."

"UNTIL A SMALL, CIVILIAN CRAFT SOMEHOW SLIPPED THROUGH THE SECURITY CORDON."

"IT ALL HAPPENED SO FAST EVEN I WASN'T SURE WHAT WE WERE ALL SEEING..."



"...UNTIL THE LITTLE PLANE FLEW TOO CLOSE, AND..."

"FOR ONE LONG, TERRIBLE MOMENT THEY JUST SEEMED TO HANG THERE, IN MID-AIR, FUSED TOGETHER, NOT SEEMING EVEN TO MOVE..."



"IT WAS AS IF A MOVIE PROJECTOR HAD SUDDENLY STOPPED ON ONE FRAME OF FILM, FREEZING A FRACTION OF A SECOND INTO AN ETERNITY."

"THEN THE PROJECTOR STARTED UP AGAIN, AND THE TWO SHIPS WERE PLUNGING, SCREAMING OUT OF THE SKY..."



"...STILL LOCKED TOGETHER, LIKE DANCERS IN SOME OBSCENE BALLET."

"ALMOST AS A SINGLE BEING, THE CROWD SURGED--SHOUTING, YELLING, PANIC RAGING THROUGH THEM."



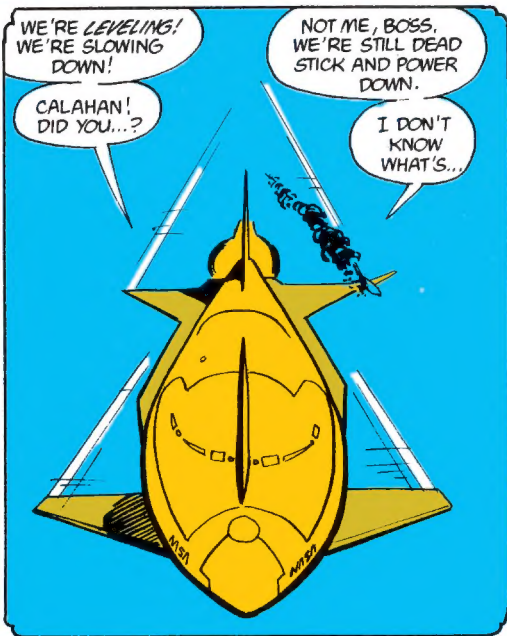
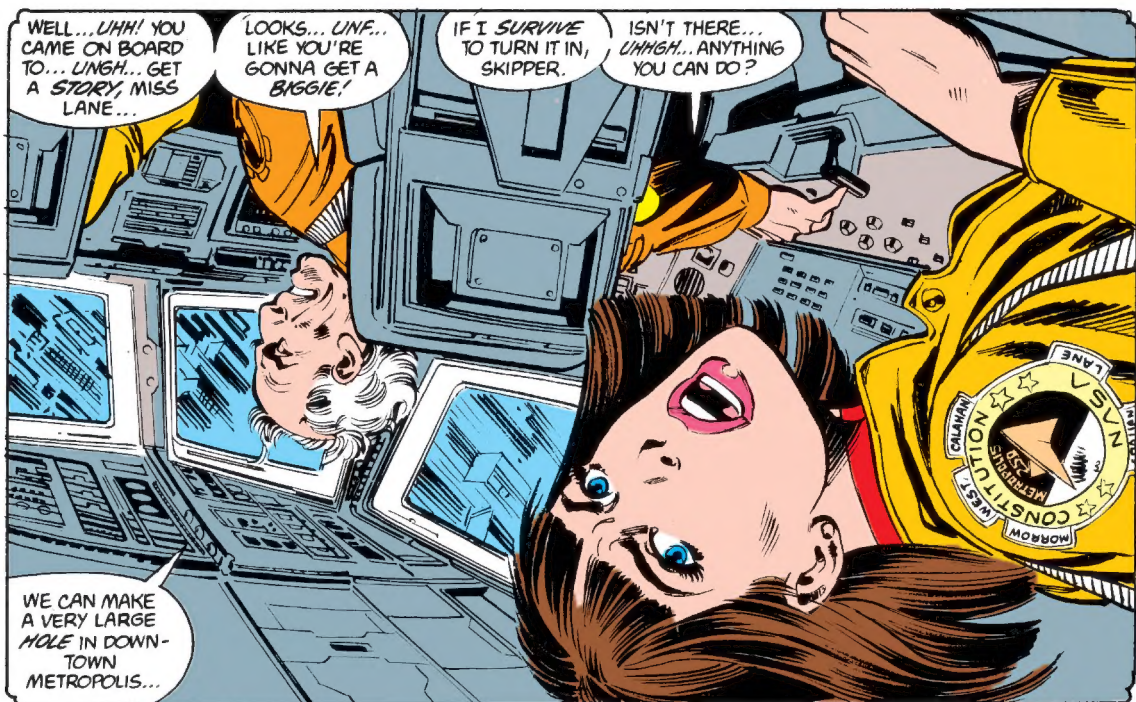
"AND RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THAT TORRENT OF HUMANITY, I KNEW, SUDDENLY KNEW, THAT FATE HAD TAKEN HOLD OF MY LIFE, THAT I WAS NO LONGER CAPTAIN OF MY OWN DESTINY."

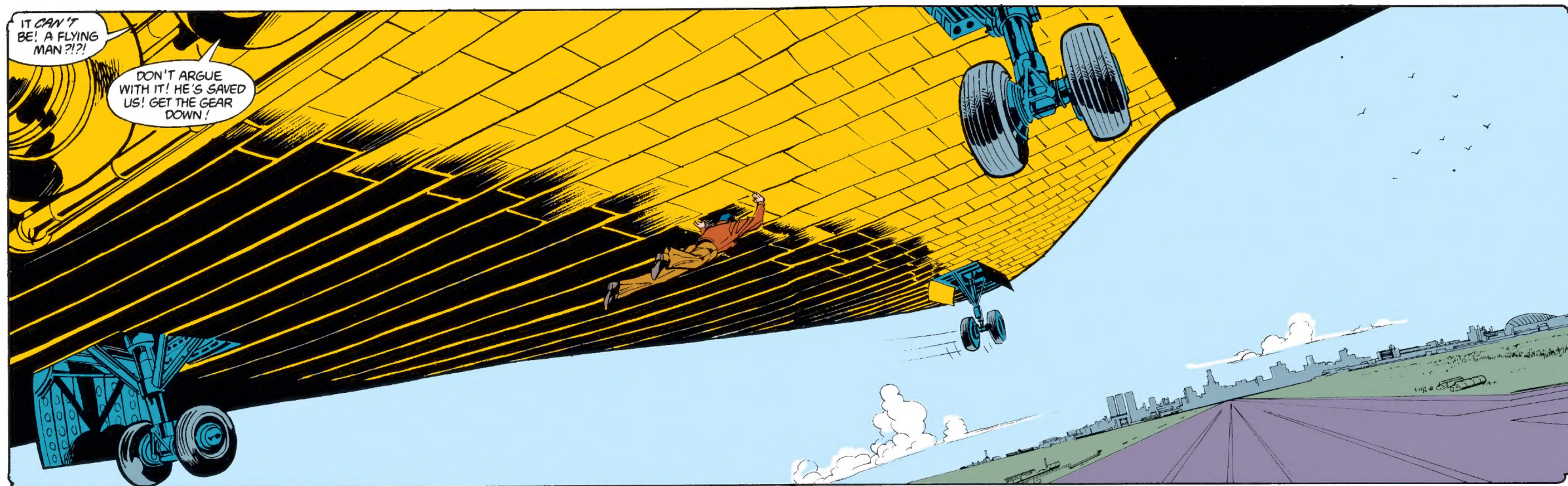
"I TOOK OFF."

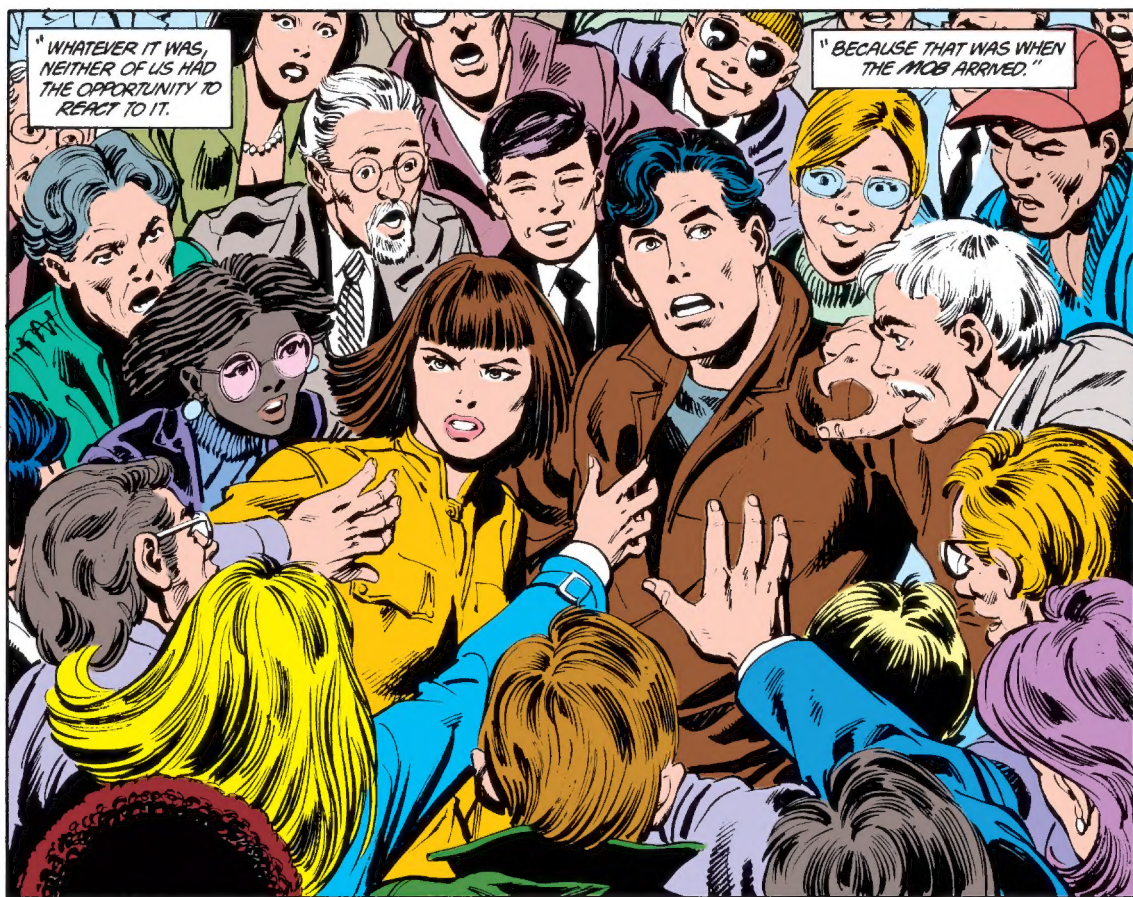


"THERE WAS NO POINT IN TRYING TO BE SECRETIVE ABOUT IT. I WAS GOING TO HAVE TO CATCH THAT SHIP AND GUIDE IT SAFELY TO THE GROUND."

"THERE WAS NO HOPE AT ALL OF PULLING THAT OFF, UNSEEN, UNPHOTOGRAPHED. I COULD ONLY MOVE FAST ENOUGH SO THAT MY FEATURES WOULD BE A BLUR."







"WHATEVER IT WAS, NEITHER OF US HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO REACT TO IT."

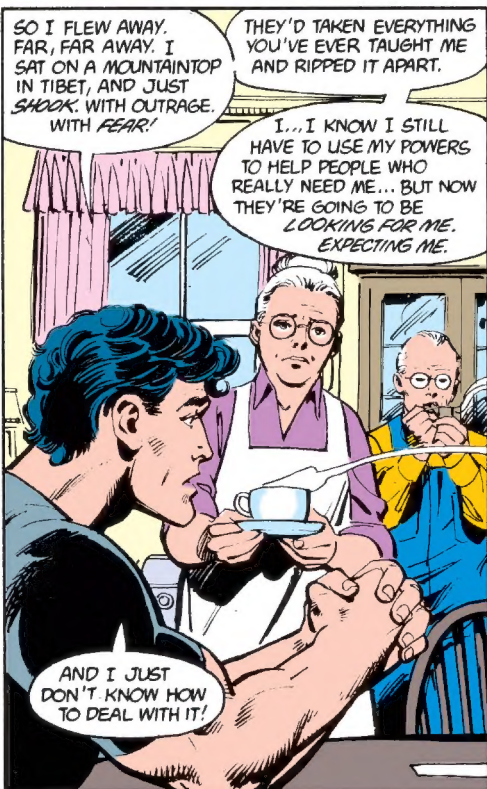
"BECAUSE THAT WAS WHEN THE MOB ARRIVED."



THEY WERE ALL OVER ME! LIKE WILD ANIMALS. LIKE MAGGOTS. CLAWING. PULLING. SCREAMING AT ME.

AND IT WAS ALL DEMANDS! EVERYBODY HAD SOMETHING THEY WANTED ME TO DO, TO SAY, TO *SELL*!

IT WAS AS IF MY FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE HAD UNLEASHED THE WORST, THE GREEDIEST, THE MOST COVETOUS PART OF EVERYONE.



SO I FLEW AWAY. FAR, FAR AWAY. I SAT ON A MOUNTAINTOP IN TIBET, AND JUST *SHOOK*. WITH OUTRAGE. WITH *FEAR*!

THEY'D TAKEN EVERYTHING YOU'VE EVER TAUGHT ME AND RIPPED IT APART.

I... I KNOW I STILL HAVE TO USE MY POWERS TO HELP PEOPLE WHO REALLY NEED ME... BUT NOW THEY'RE GOING TO BE *LOOKING FOR ME. EXPECTING ME.*

AND I JUST DON'T KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH IT!



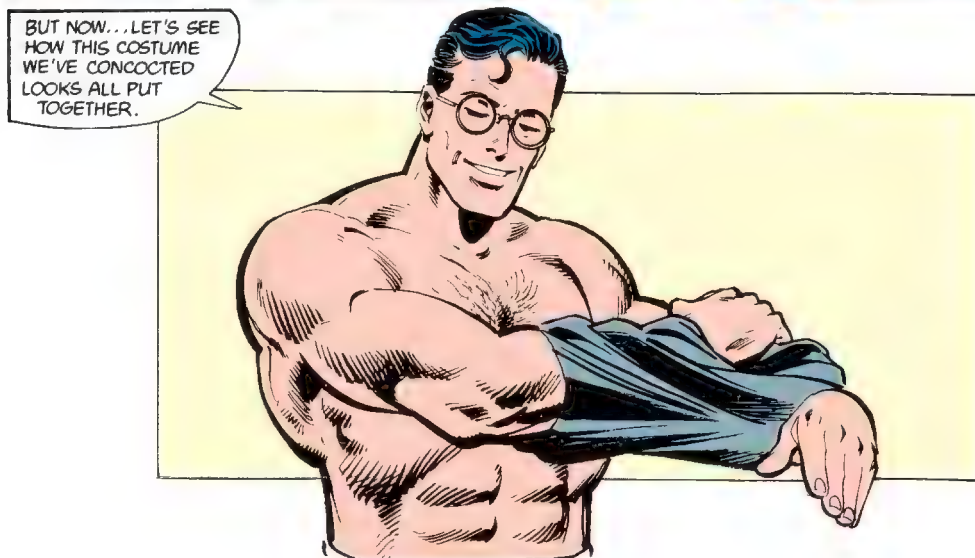
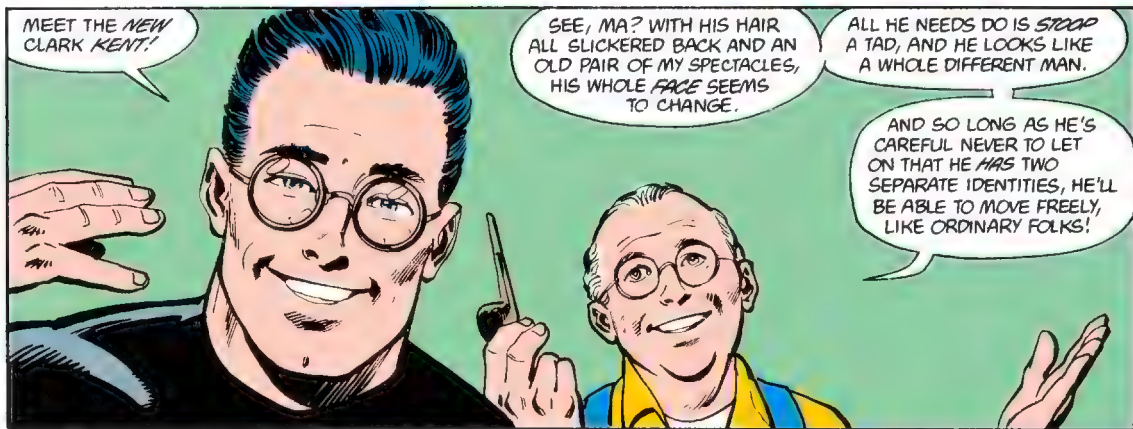
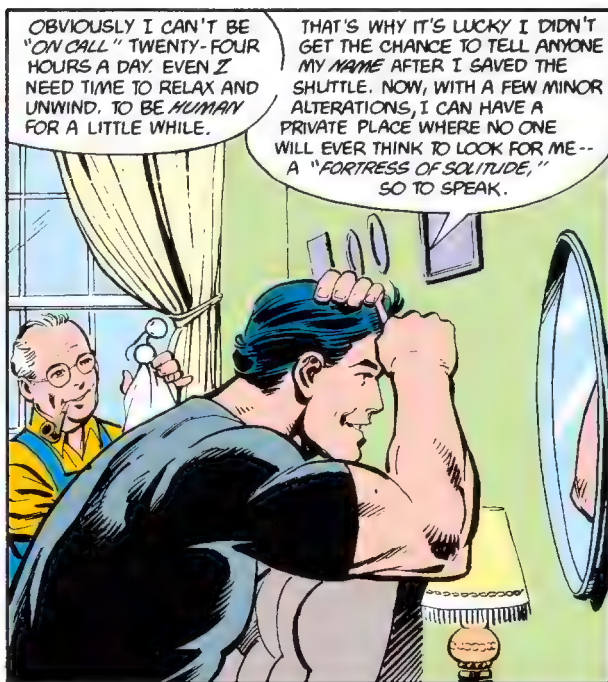
I THINK I DO.

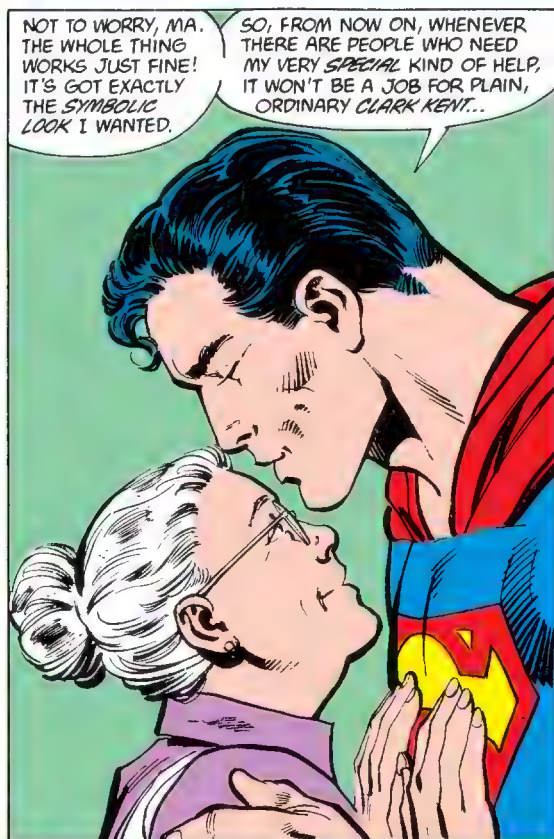
SUPERMAN.

EPILOGUE:

THE SUPER-HERO









BOOK TWO

SUPERMAN THE STORY OF THE CENTURY!





OMIGOSH!!
IT'S HIM!!

IT'S
HIM!!!



YOU'RE SURE? THAT'S
THE "SUPERMAN" WHO
SAVED THAT CRASHING
SPACE PLANE?

IT MUST
BE!

HE'S CHANGED HIS
OUTFIT, BUT WHEN
WAS THE LAST TIME
YOU SAW A FLYING
MAN IN
METROPOLIS?



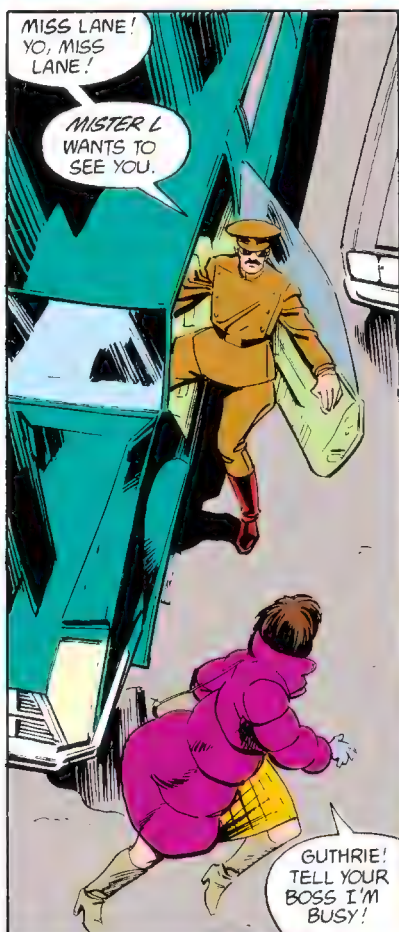
THEN GET AFTER
HIM, LOIS! STAY
WITH HIM NO
MATTER WHAT
HAPPENS!

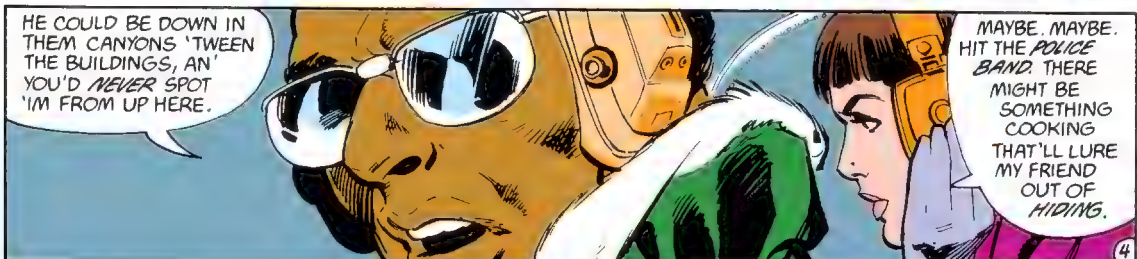
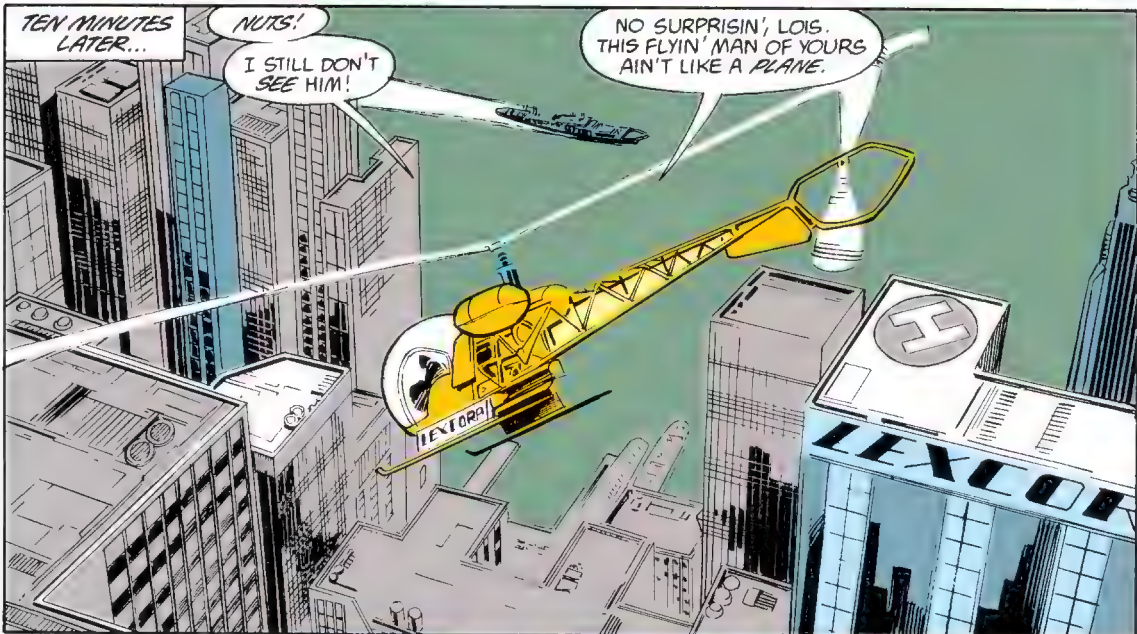
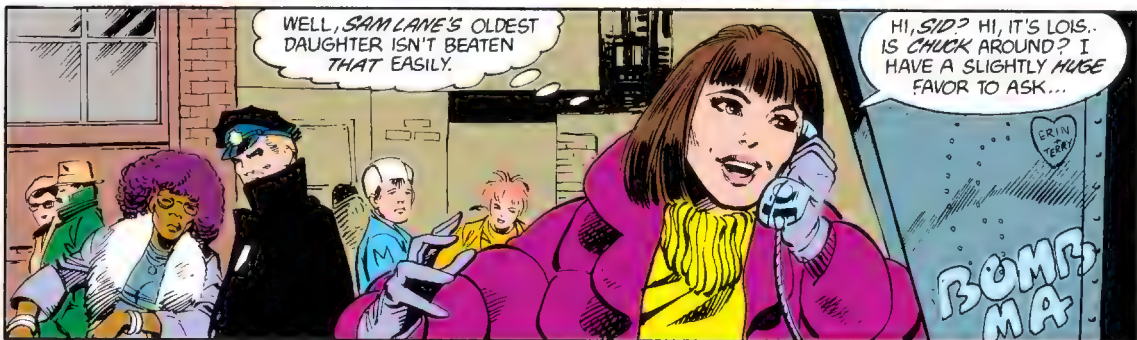
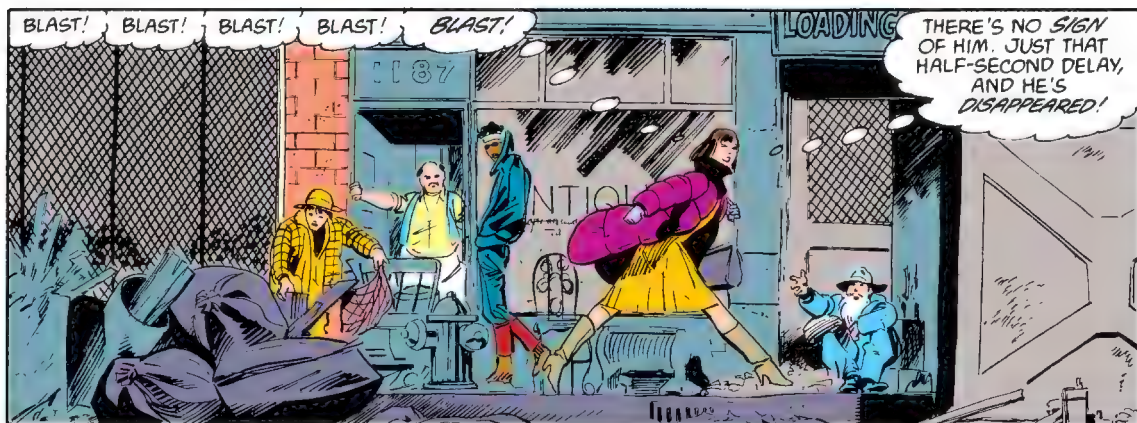
GET ME
THAT
STORY!!!

AS GOOD AS
GOT, CHIEF!
TELL THE RE-
WRITE BOYS TO
STAY CLOSE TO
THEIR PHONES:-

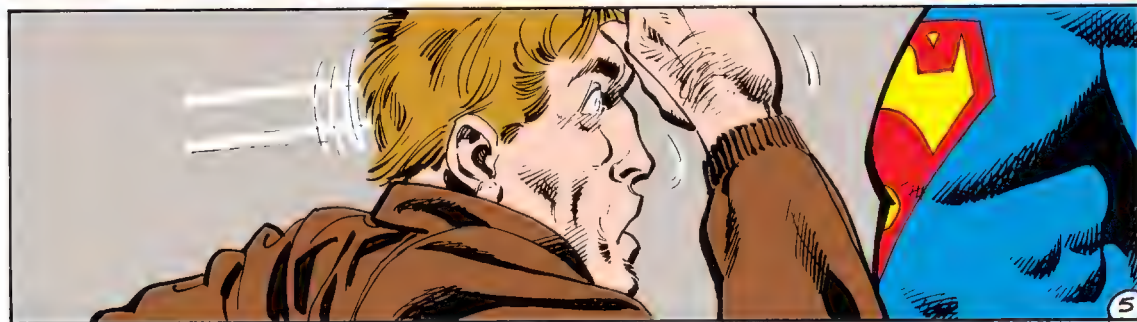
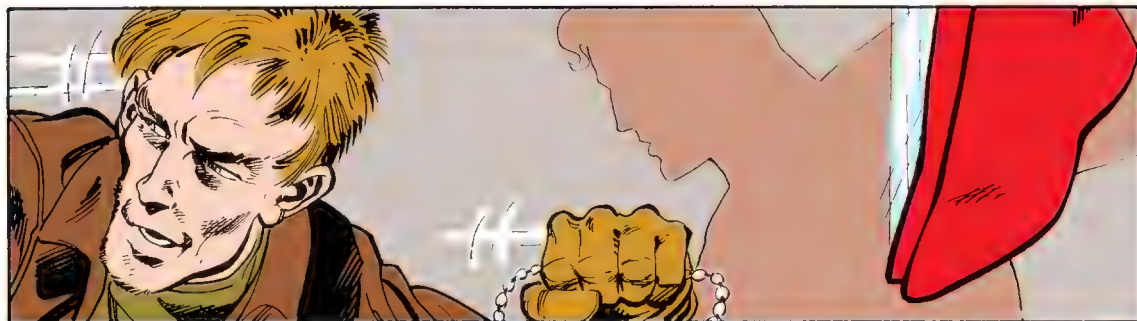


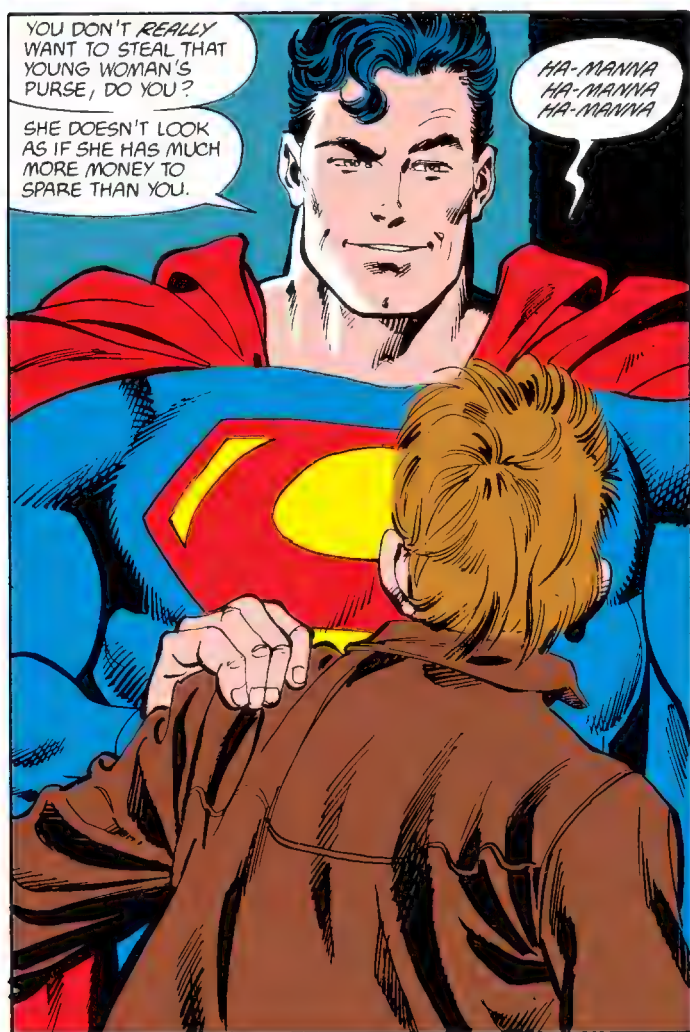
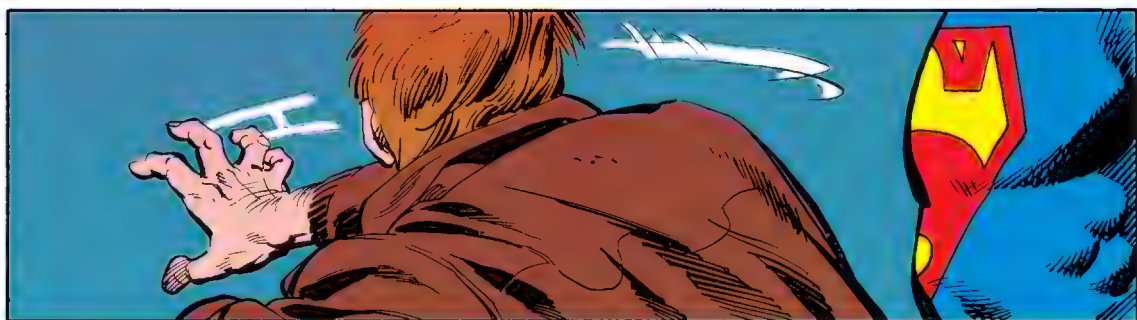
-- LOIS LANE IS
ON THE JOB!!





MEANWHILE...

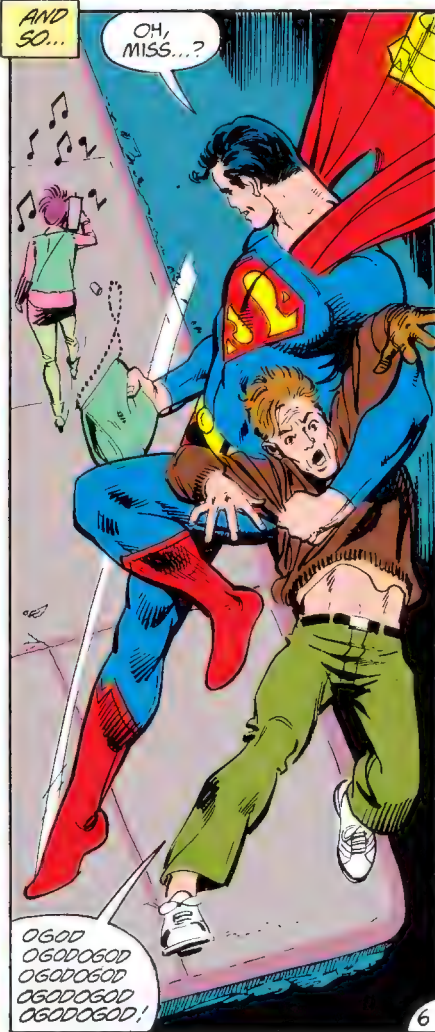




YOU DON'T REALLY WANT TO STEAL THAT YOUNG WOMAN'S PURSE, DO YOU?

SHE DOESN'T LOOK AS IF SHE HAS MUCH MORE MONEY TO SPARE THAN YOU.

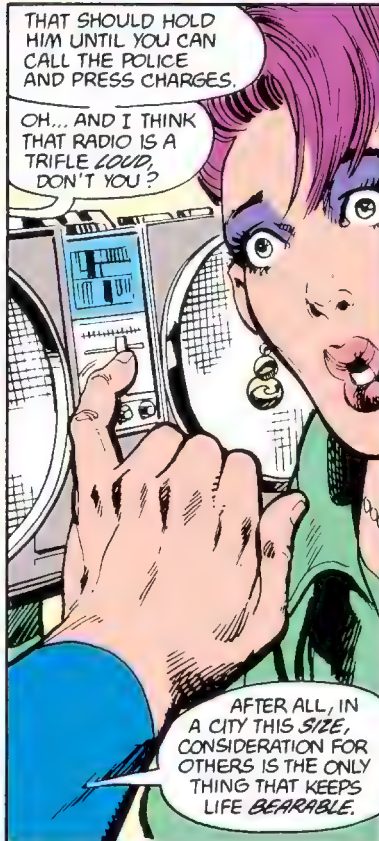
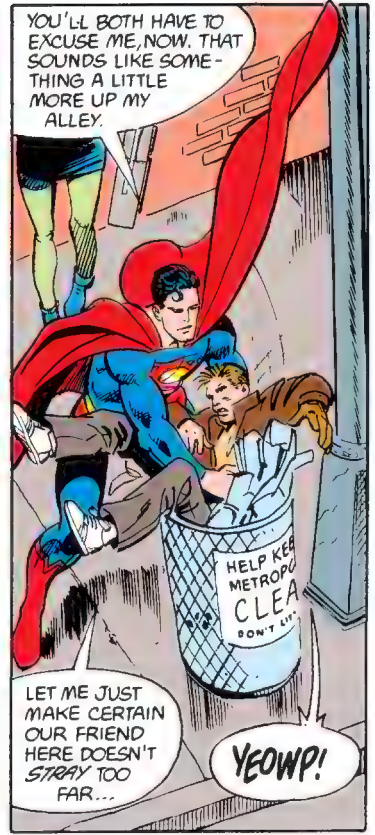
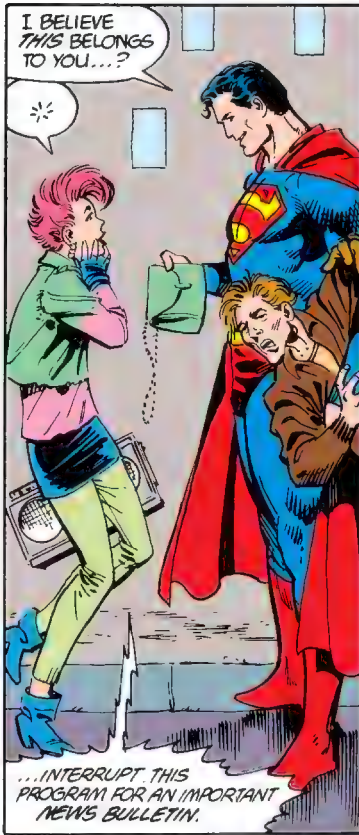
HA-MANNA
HA-MANNA
HA-MANNA

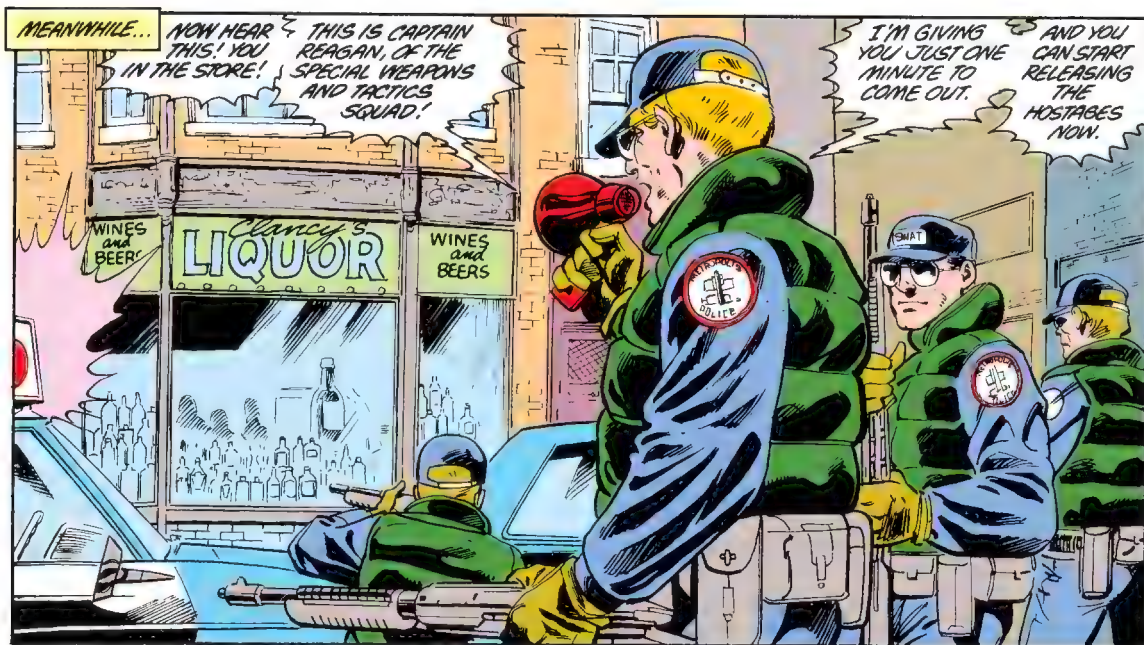


AND SO...

OH, MISS...?

0600
06000600
06000600
06000600
06000600!
06000600!





MEANWHILE...

NOW HEAR THIS! YOU IN THE STORE! THIS IS CAPTAIN REAGAN, OF THE SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS SQUAD!

I'M GIVING YOU JUST ONE MINUTE TO COME OUT.

AND YOU CAN START RELEASING THE HOSTAGES NOW.



IN YOUR EAR, PIG! YOU COME ONE STEP CLOSER...

... AND WE'LL START DECORATING THIS STORE WITH THESE PEOPLE'S BRAINS!



DAMN!

I WAS KINDA HOPING MY REPUTATION WOULD BE ENOUGH TO SCARE THEM OUTTA THERE.

GUESS NOT, SKIPPER. LOOKS LIKE WE'LL REALLY HAVE TO GO IN AFTER 'EM.

BUT THERE ARE BOUND TO BE CIVILIAN CASUALTIES...

MAYBE NOT. LET ME HELP.

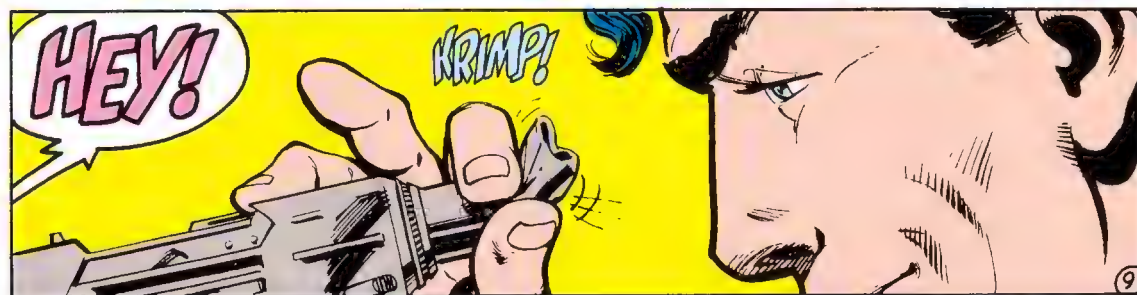
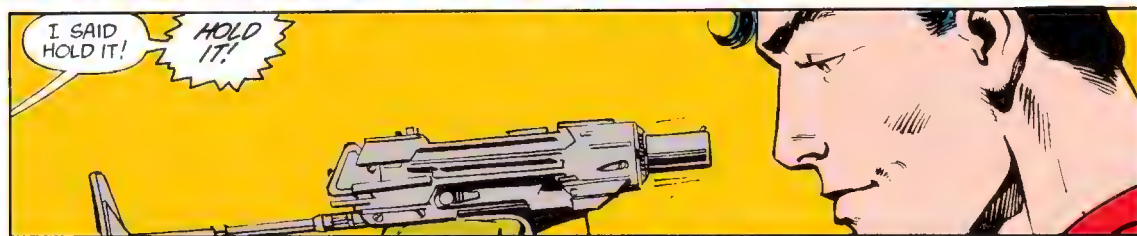
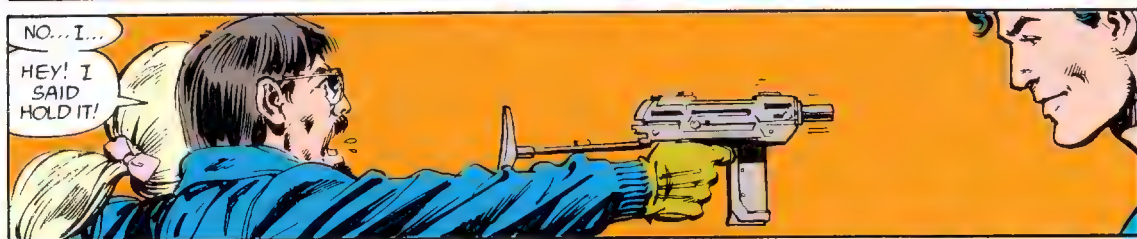
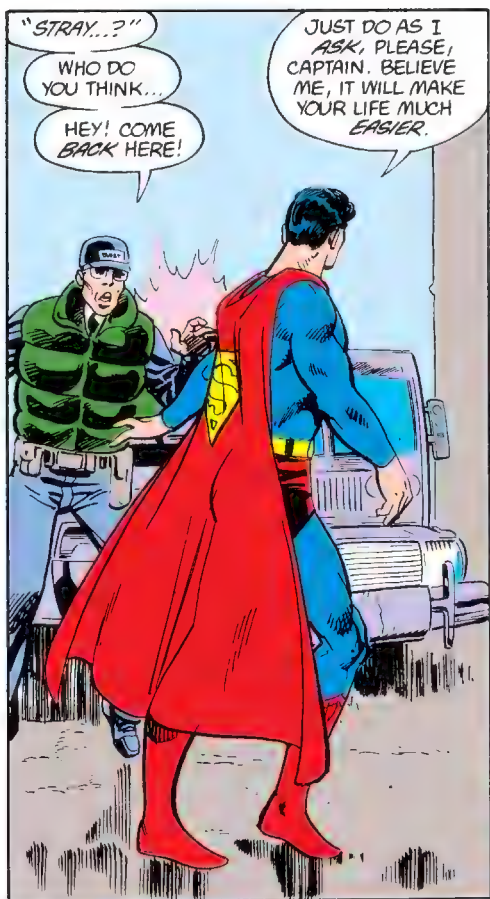


HUH? WHAT IN THE NAME OF...?

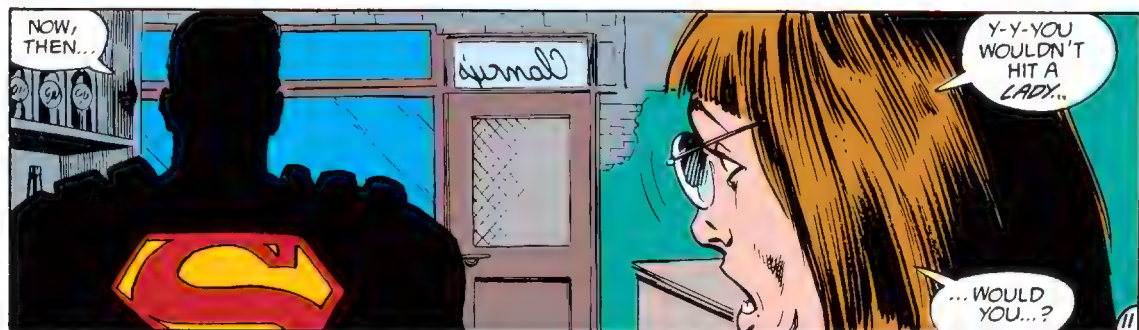
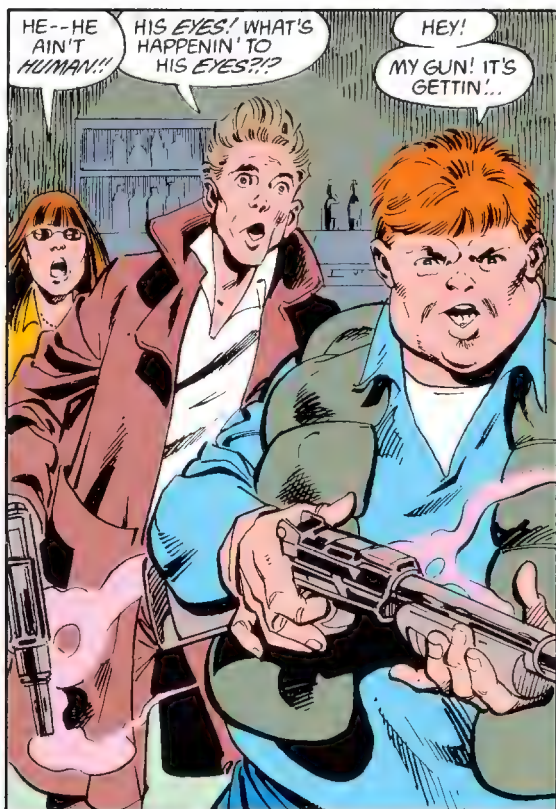
WHAT CIRCUS DID YOU ESCAPE FROM??

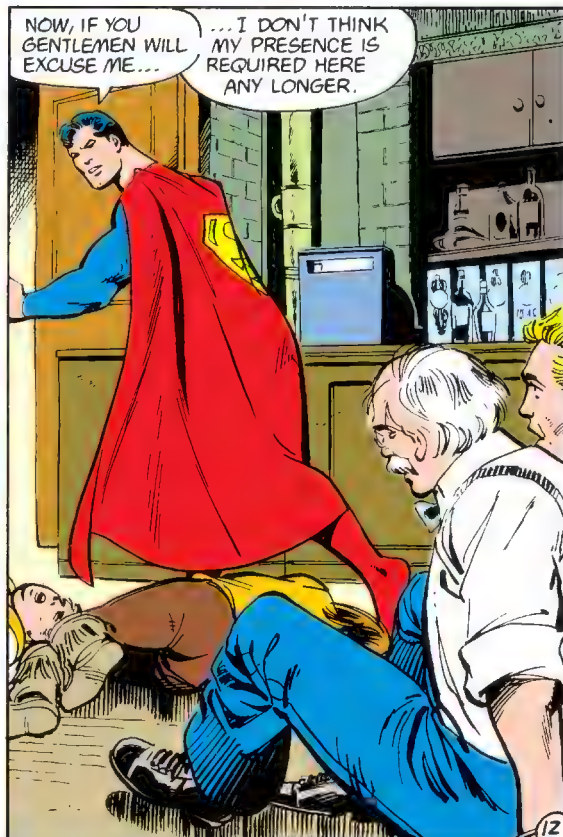
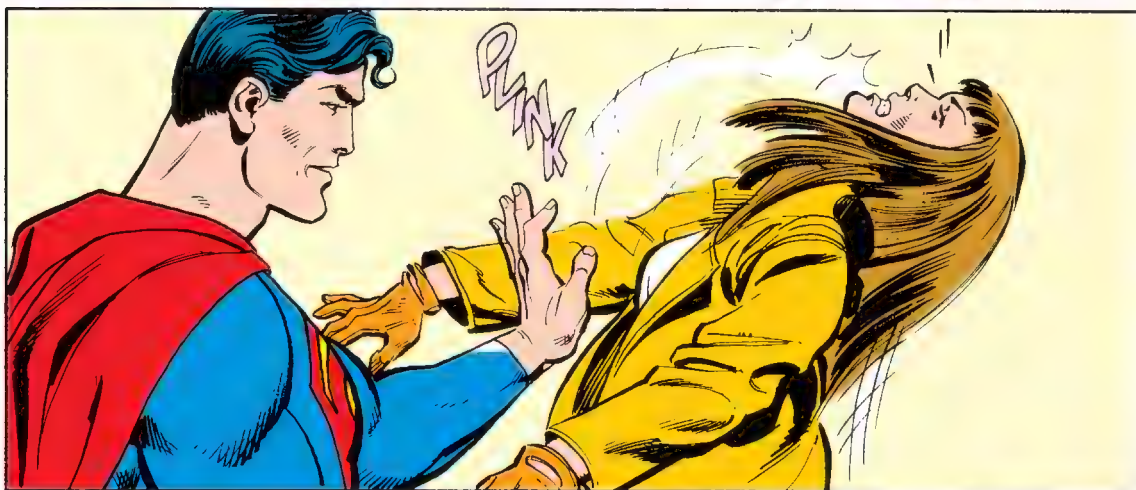
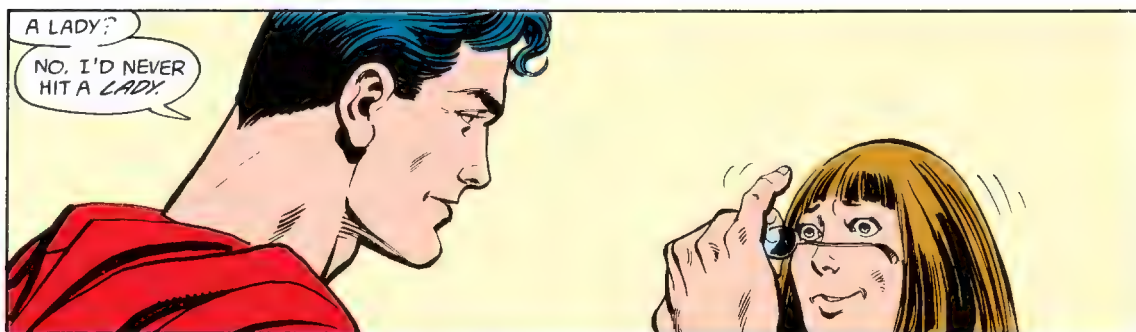
NO CIRCUS, CAPTAIN. WILL YOU ASK YOUR MEN TO PULL BACK, PLEASE?

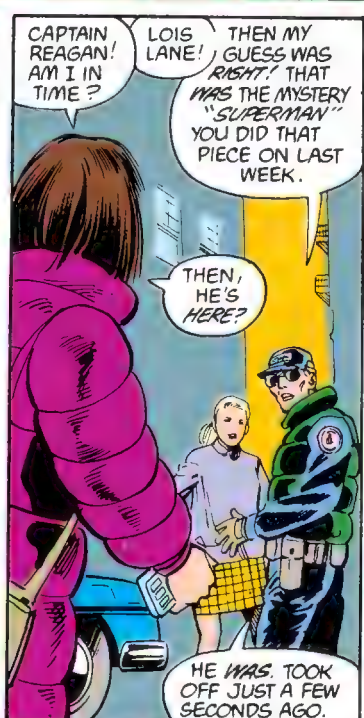
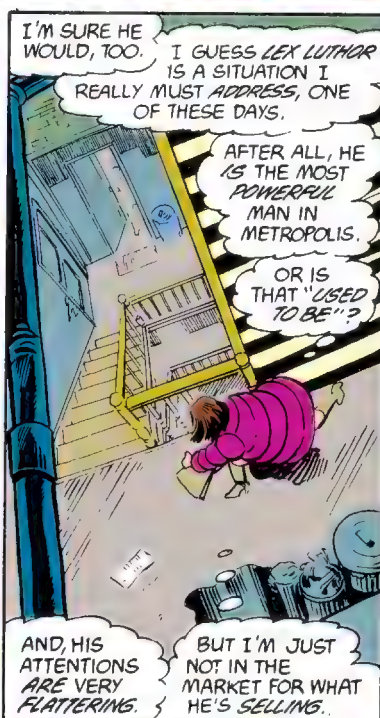
I DON'T WANT TO RISK THEM GETTING HIT BY STRAY BULLETS.

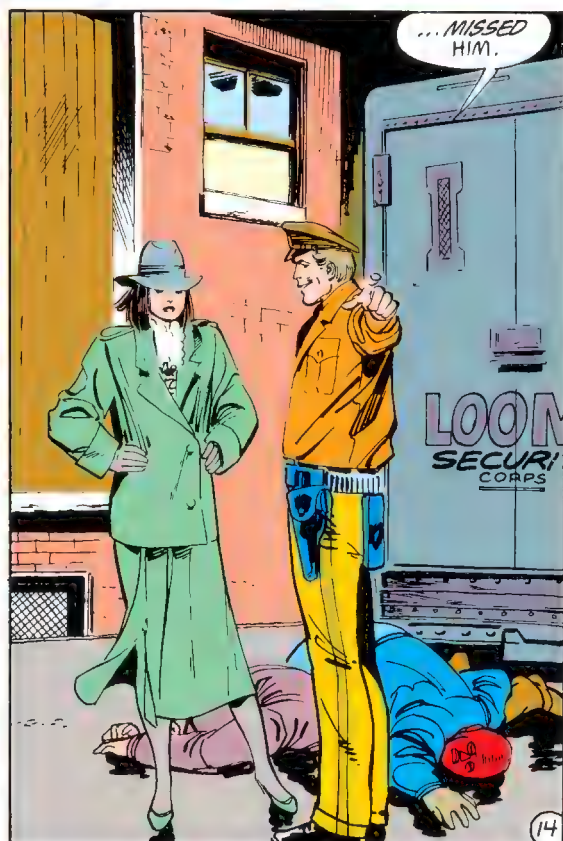


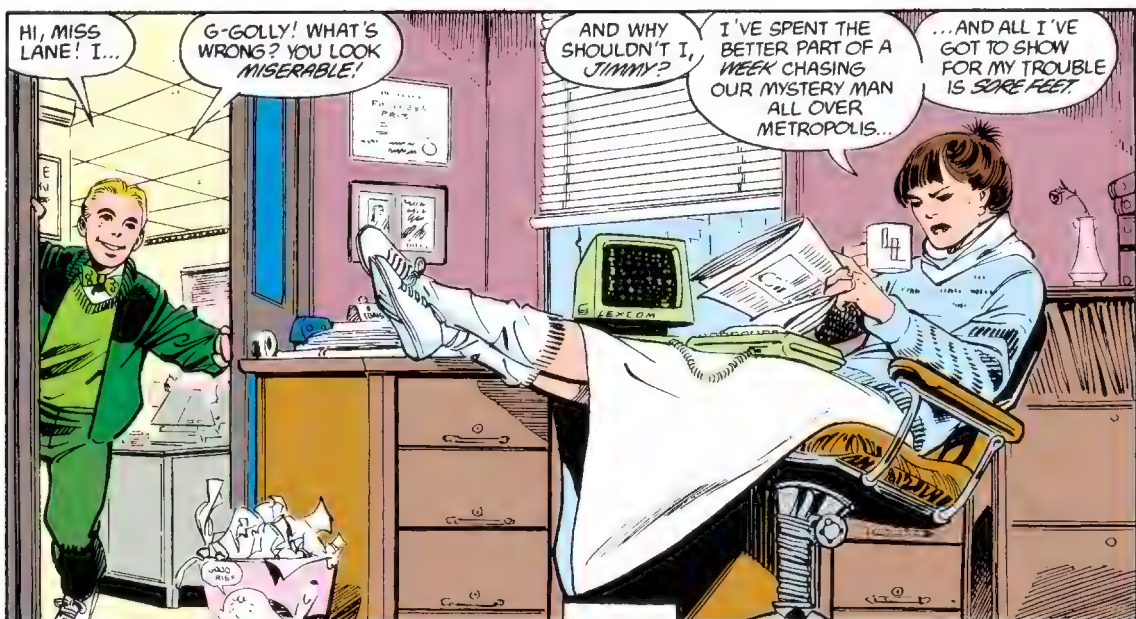


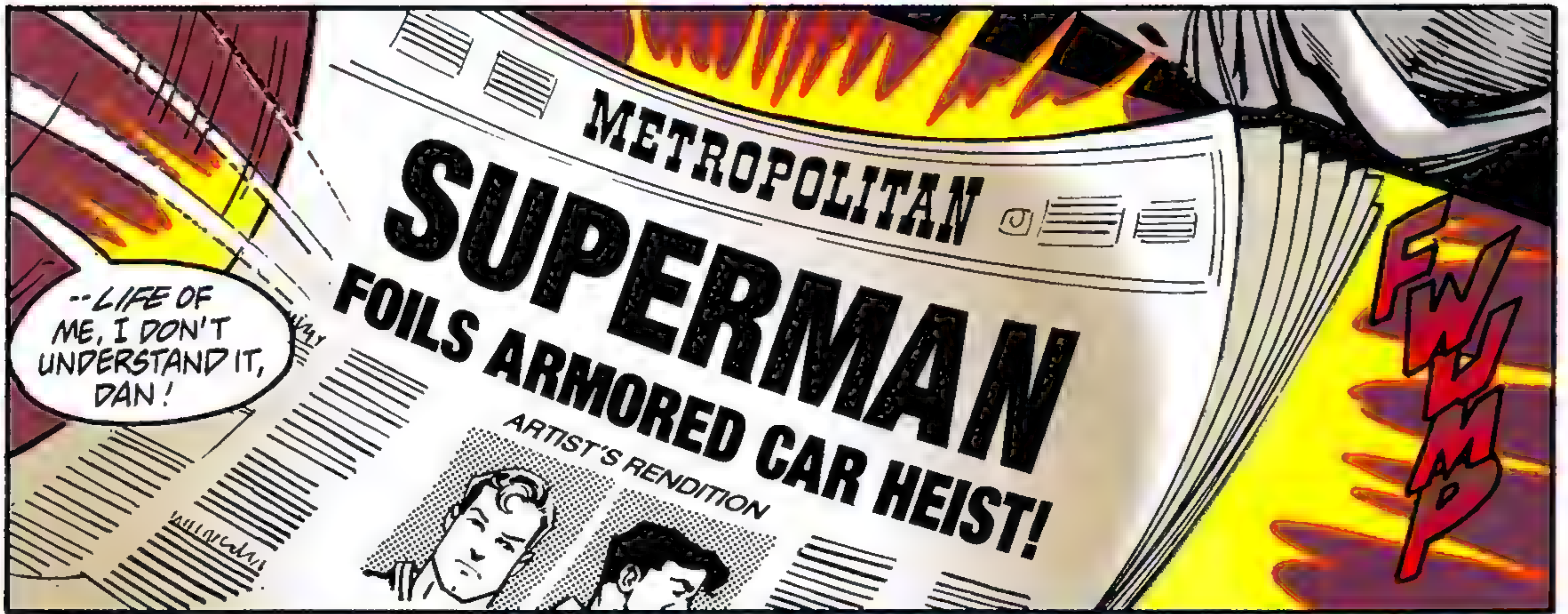
















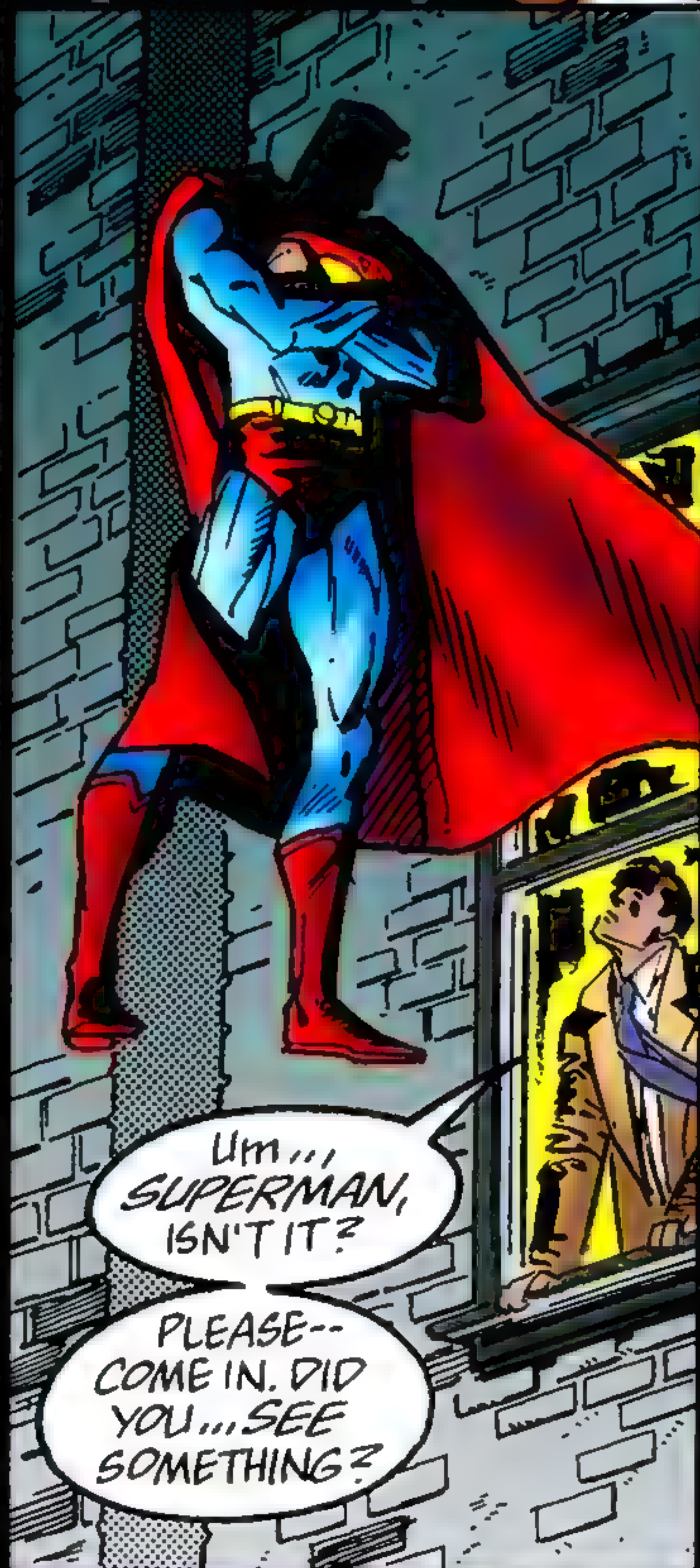
-- THAT'S THE
LAST PICTURE,
CAPTAIN HENDERSON,
NEED ANYTHING
ELSE?

ONLY THE SHOOTER
AND HIS WEAPON,
DANNY. CAN YOU HELP ME
OUT THERE?



MAYBE
I CAN...

C-CAPTAIN---



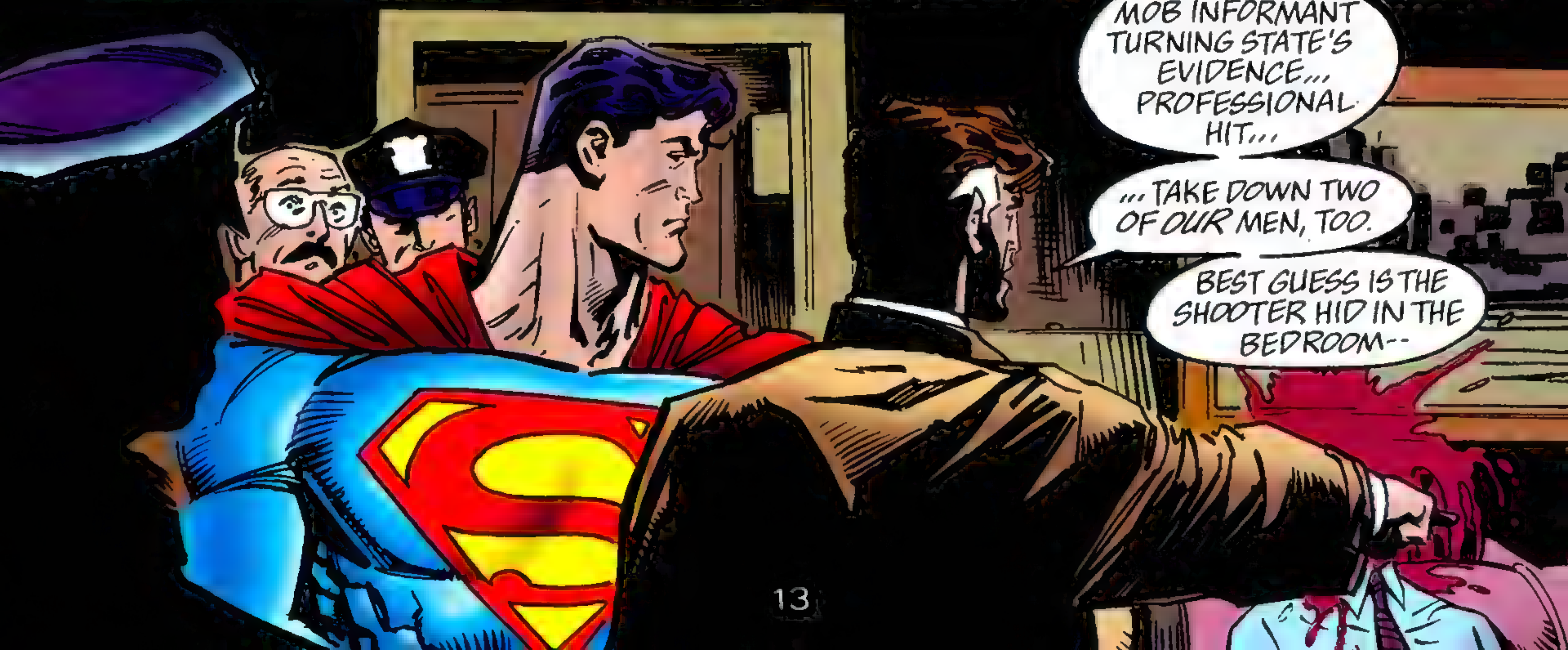
Um...
SUPERMAN,
ISN'T IT?

PLEASE--
COME IN. DID
YOU...SEE
SOMETHING?



NOT
YET.

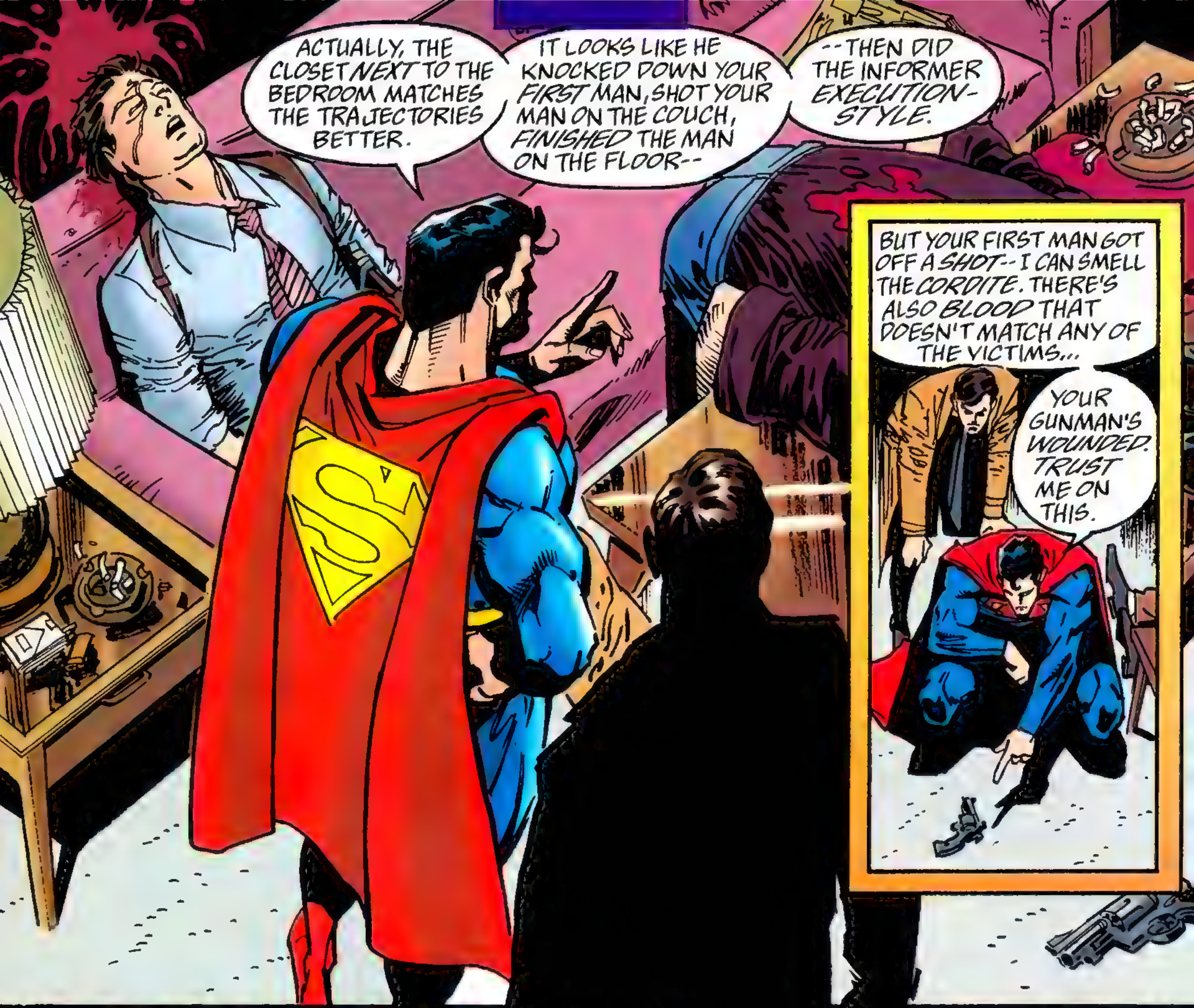
WHAT
HAPPENED?



MOB INFORMANT
TURNING STATE'S
EVIDENCE...
PROFESSIONAL
HIT...

...TAKE DOWN TWO
OF OUR MEN, TOO.

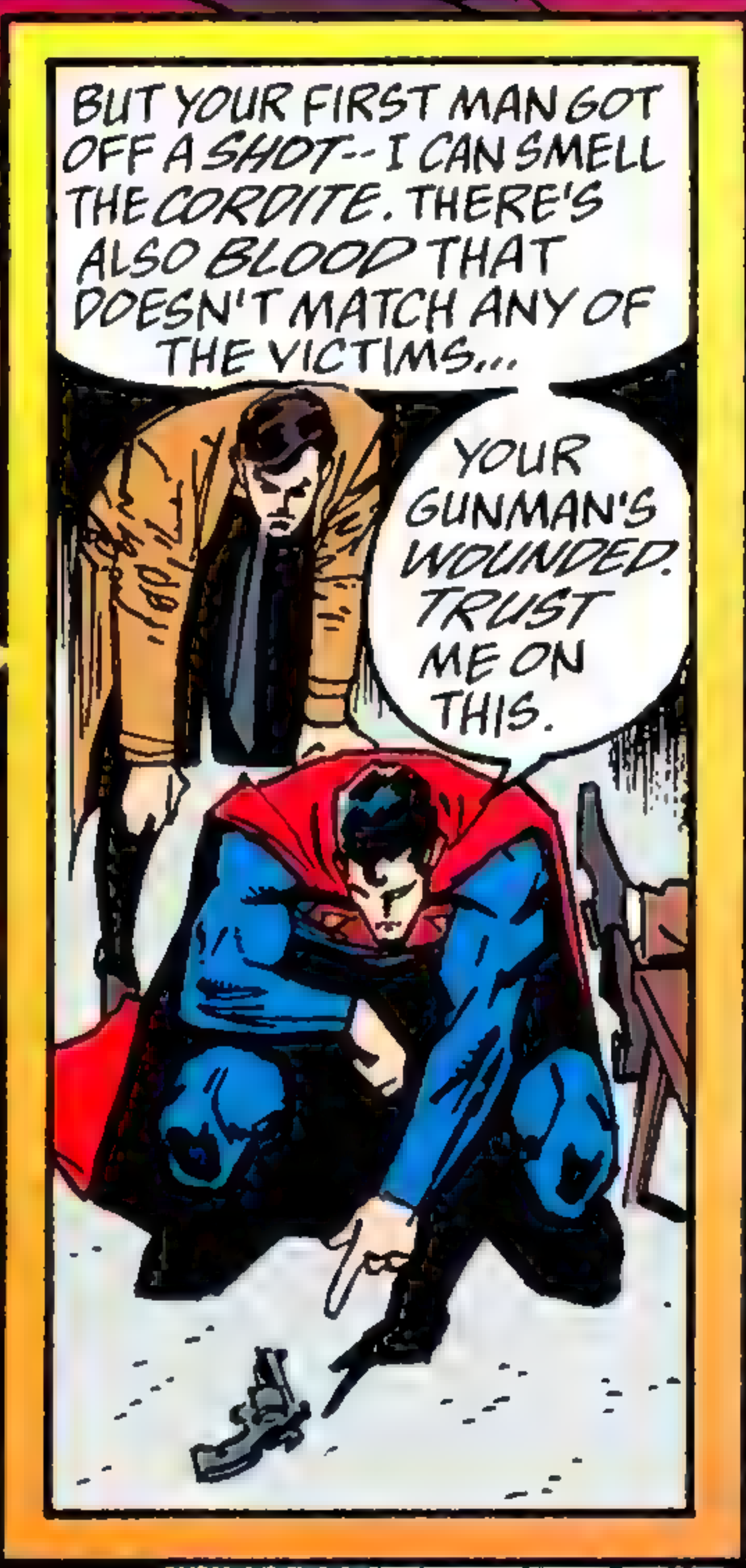
BEST GUESS IS THE
SHOOTER HID IN THE
BEDROOM--



ACTUALLY, THE CLOSET NEXT TO THE BEDROOM MATCHES THE TRAJECTORIES BETTER.

IT LOOKS LIKE HE KNOCKED DOWN YOUR FIRST MAN, SHOT YOUR MAN ON THE COUCH, FINISHED THE MAN ON THE FLOOR--

--THEN DID THE INFORMER EXECUTION-STYLE.



BUT YOUR FIRST MAN GOT OFF A SHOT--I CAN SMELL THE CORDITE. THERE'S ALSO BLOOD THAT DOESN'T MATCH ANY OF THE VICTIMS...

YOUR GUNMAN'S WOUNDED. TRUST ME ON THIS.



WELL, IT'S BETTER THAN NOTHING...

GET AN A.P.B. OUT, MEN--IF HE'S RIGHT, THE SHOOTER COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN FAR!

LET'S JUST SAY--



--HE DIDN'T GET FAR ENOUGH!

WOOOOSH! BOOOOM!



HEY-- I'M
TALKIN'
TO YOU,
PAL!

WHAT KIND OF
PSYCHOS THEY GET
TO DRIVE THOSE
GO-GO CZECH
CABS, ANYWAY?!

...SHOULD'VE
DONE THAT COP
RIGHT AWAY...

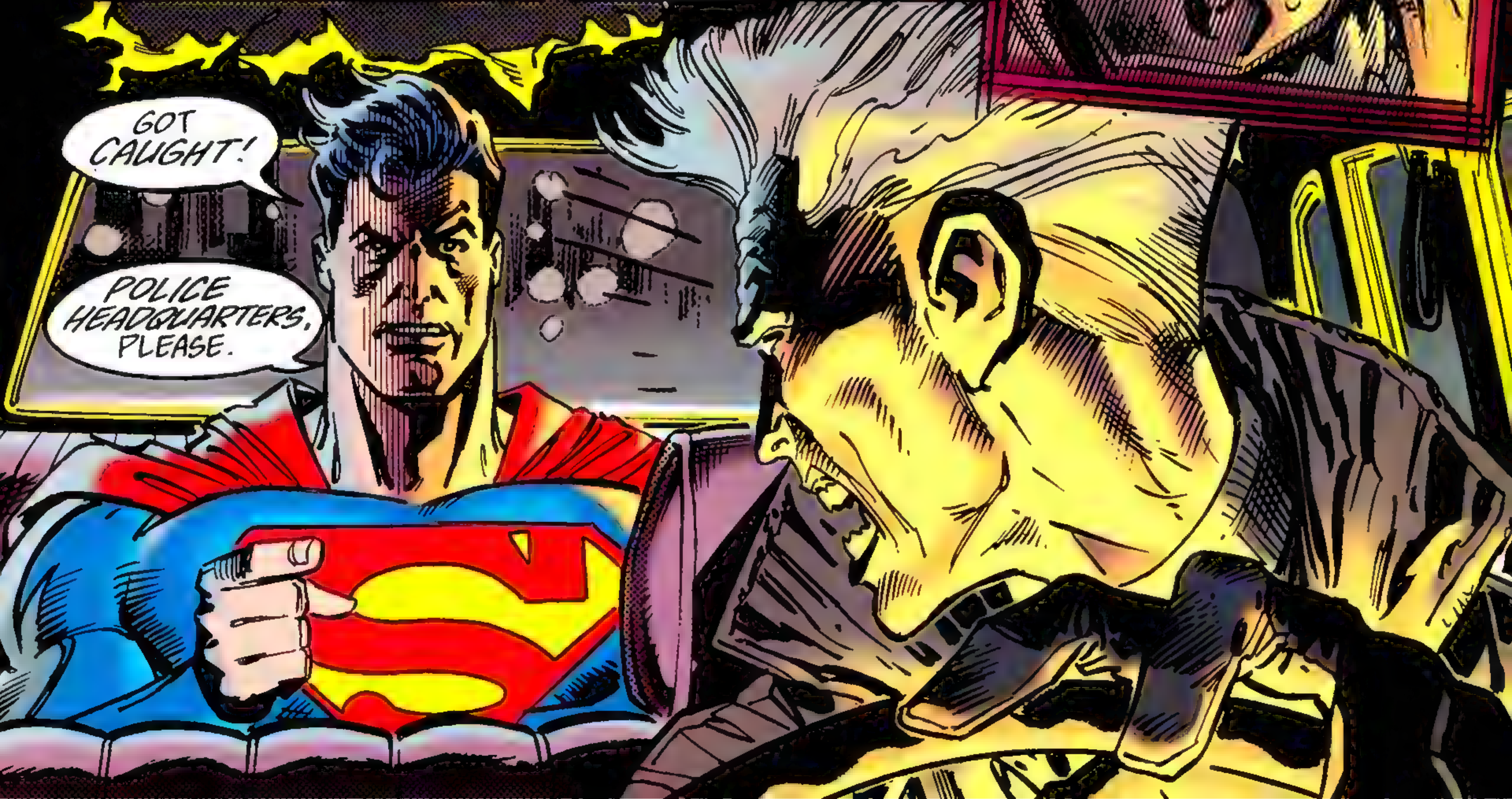
...GOT
CLEVER...

...GOT
SLOPPY...

KRANK

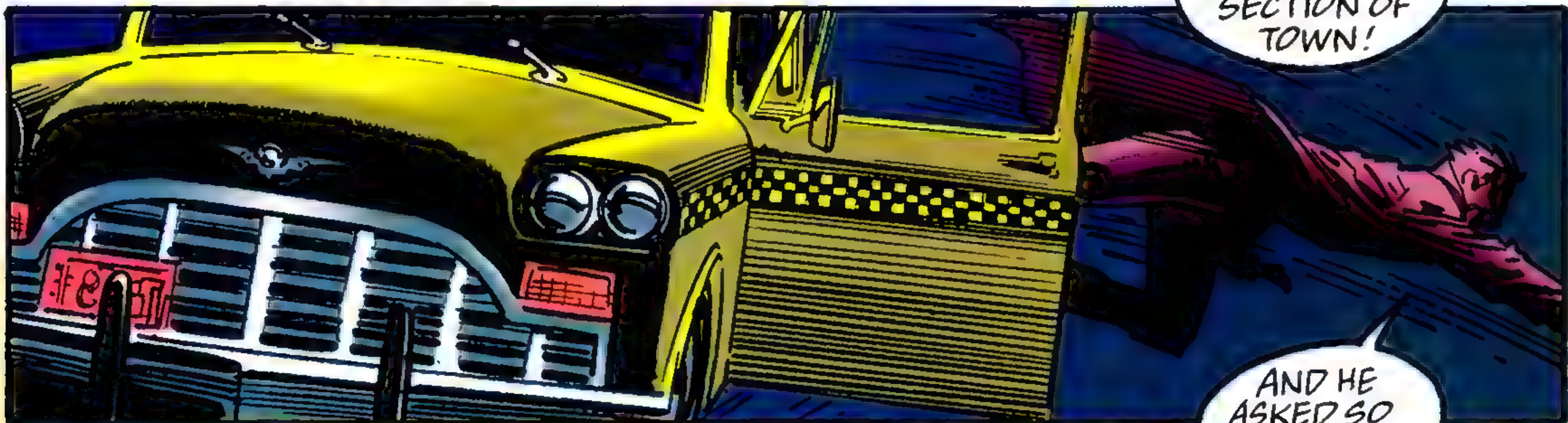
GOT
CAUGHT!

POLICE
HEADQUARTERS,
PLEASE.

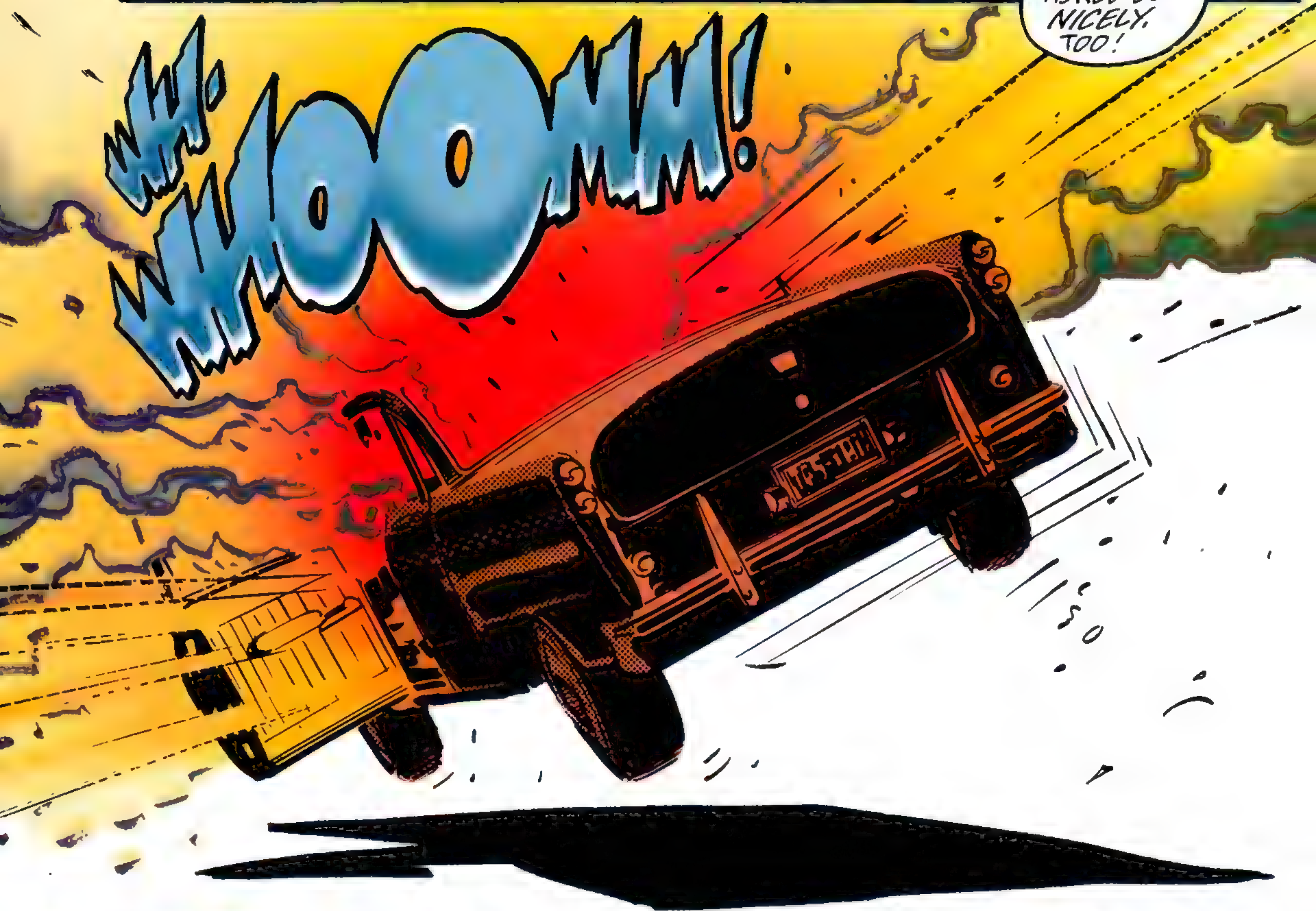




SORRY--
I DON'T DO
THAT
SECTION OF
TOWN!

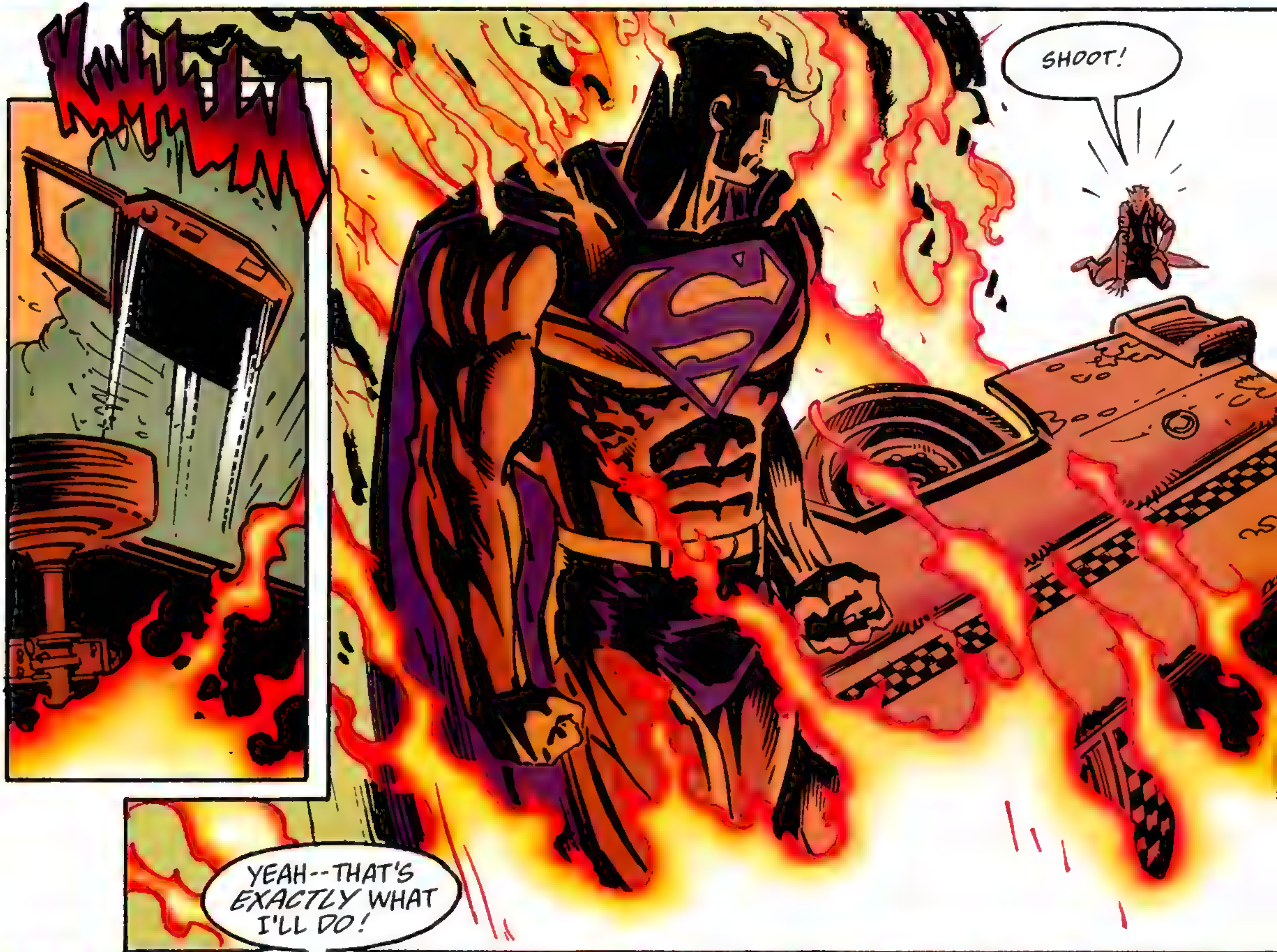


AND HE
ASKED SO
NICELY,
TOO!



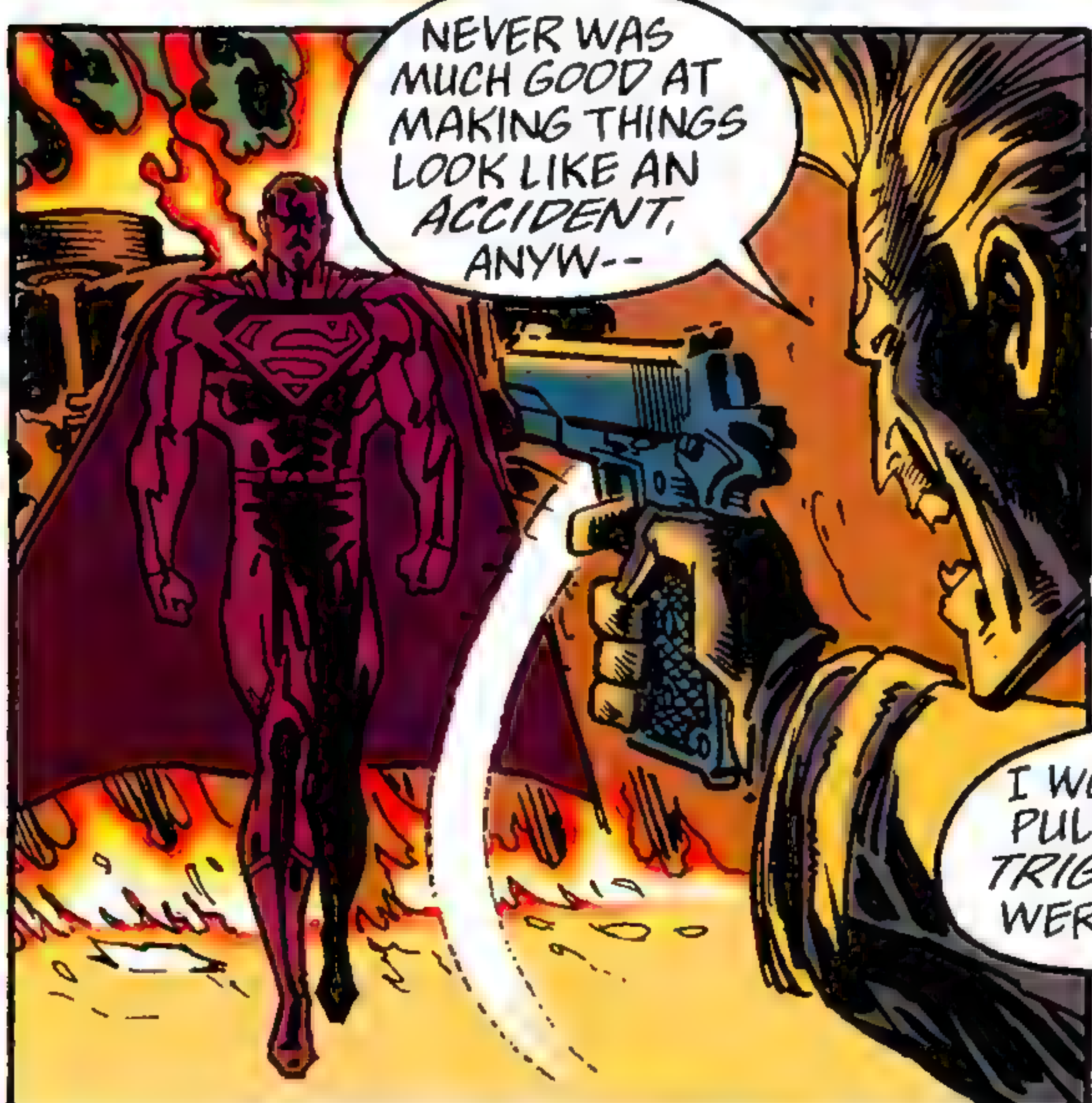


HA! LOOKS LIKE
MR. HALLOWEEN
OUTFIT GO-GO
CZECHED
OUT!



SHOOT!

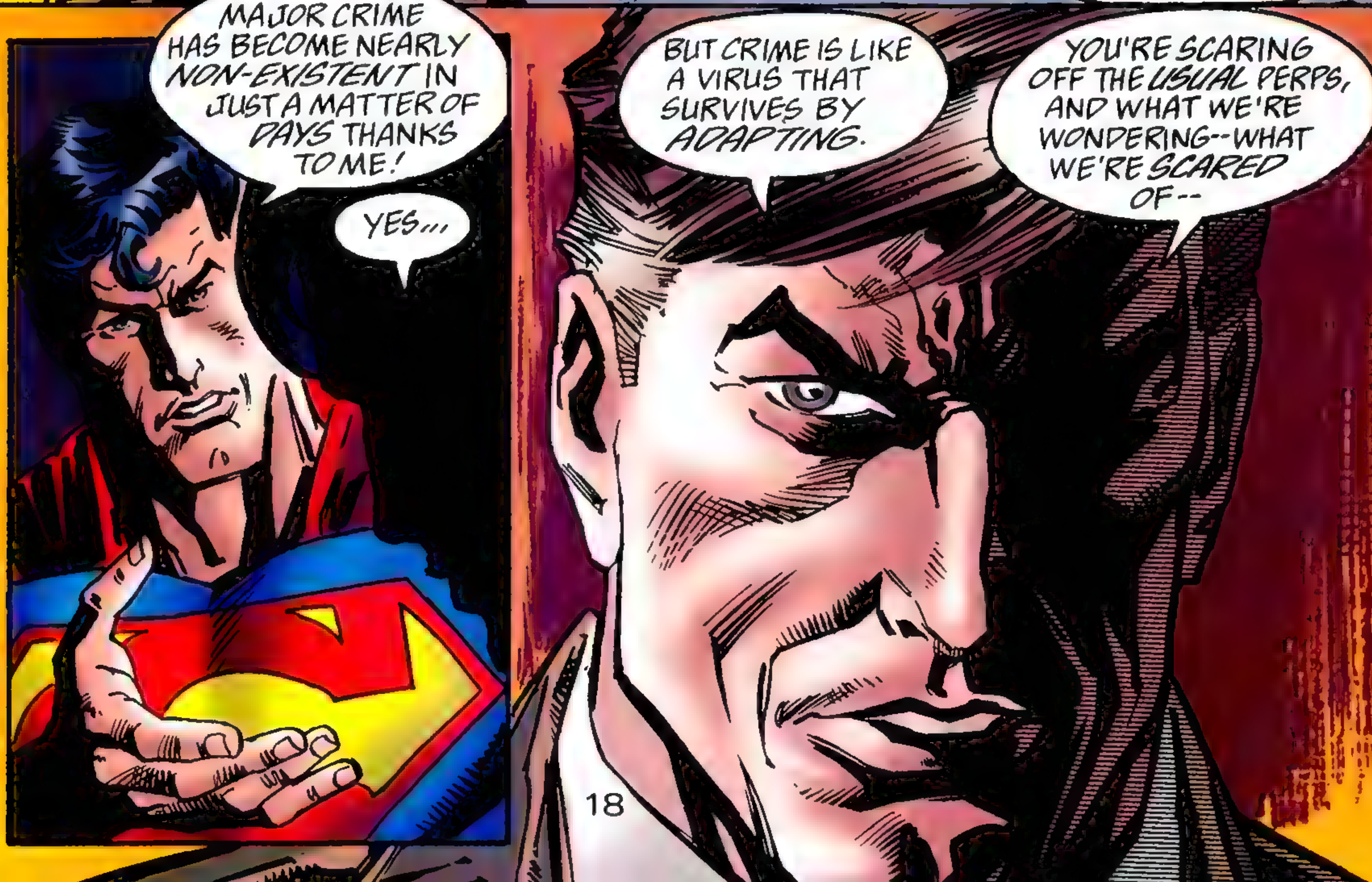
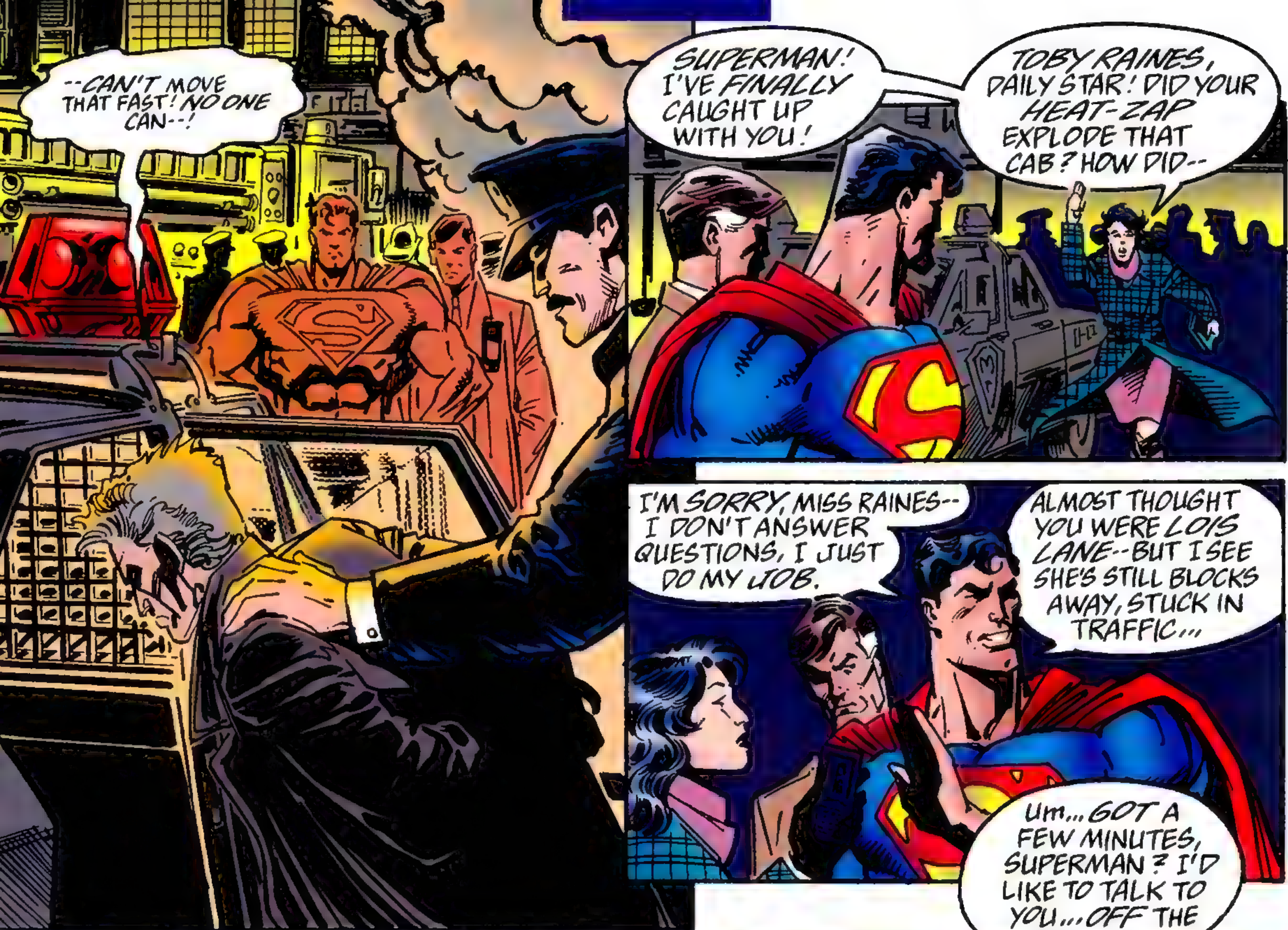
YEAH--THAT'S
EXACTLY WHAT
I'LL DO!



NEVER WAS
MUCH GOOD AT
MAKING THINGS
LOOK LIKE AN
ACCIDENT,
ANYW--



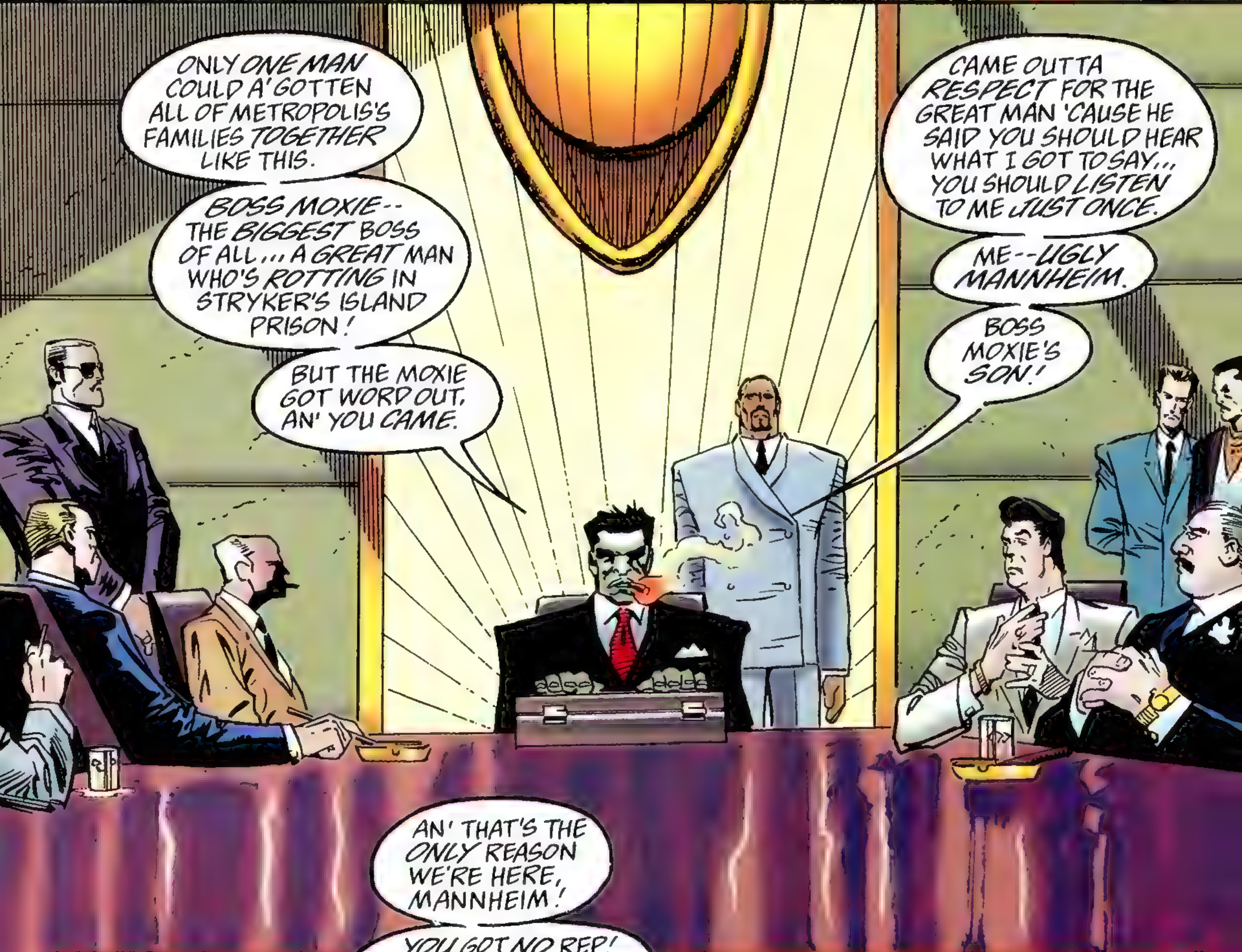
I WOULDN'T
PULL THAT
TRIGGER IF I
WERE YOU!





"--IS WHAT WILL
TAKE THEIR
PLACE!"

THANK
YOU ALL FOR
COMING.



ONLY ONE MAN
COULD A' GOTTEN
ALL OF METROPOLIS'S
FAMILIES TOGETHER
LIKE THIS.

BOSS MOXIE--
THE BIGGEST BOSS
OF ALL... A GREAT MAN
WHO'S ROTTING IN
STRYKER'S ISLAND
PRISON!

BUT THE MOXIE
GOT WORD OUT,
AN' YOU CAME.

CAME OUTTA
RESPECT FOR THE
GREAT MAN 'CAUSE HE
SAID YOU SHOULD HEAR
WHAT I GOT TO SAY...
YOU SHOULD LISTEN
TO ME JUST ONCE.

ME--UGLY
MANNHEIM.

BOSS
MOXIE'S
SON!

AN' THAT'S THE
ONLY REASON
WE'RE HERE,
MANNHEIM!

YOU GOT NO REP!
YOU AIN'T EVEN BEEN
AROUND FOR YEARS!

BEEN WITH MY
GRANNY, SOL...

...LEARNIN'
THINGS...



AN' THE MOXIE AIN'T
THE ONLY REASON
YOU'RE HERE--YOU'RE
ALL SCARED.

I HEAR THE
TALK. CAN'T MAKE
A PROFIT IN
METROPOLIS
NO MORE...

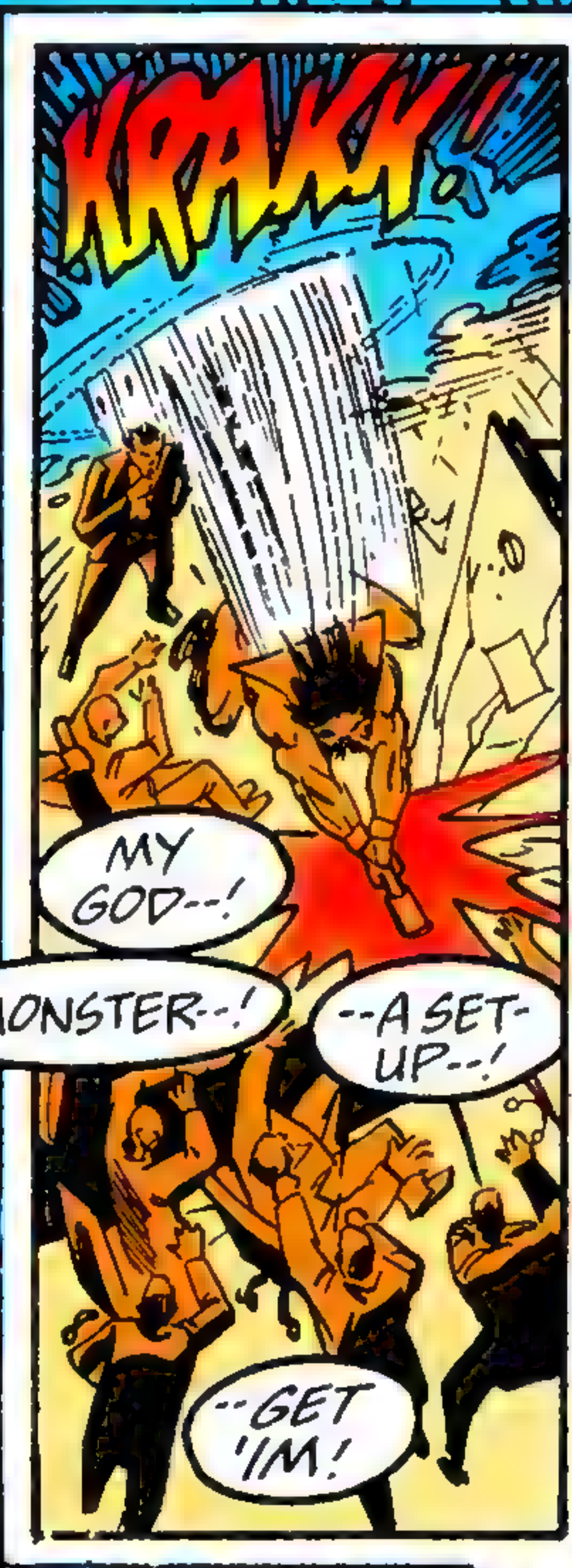
... BIG
OPERATIONS
ARE BIG
TARGETS...

... TIME
TO PULL
OUT...



NO,
GENTLEMEN--
IT'S TIME
TO THINK
BIGGER!

IT'S TIME
TO UP THE
ANTE!



MY
GOD---

--MONSTER--

--A SET-
UP--

--GET
'IM!

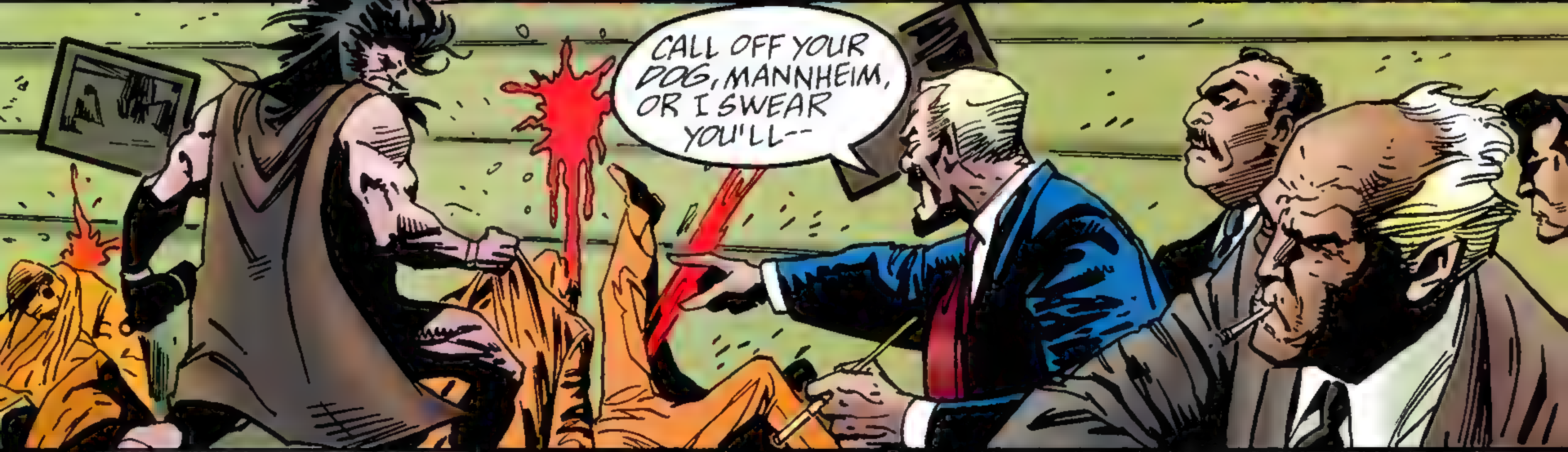




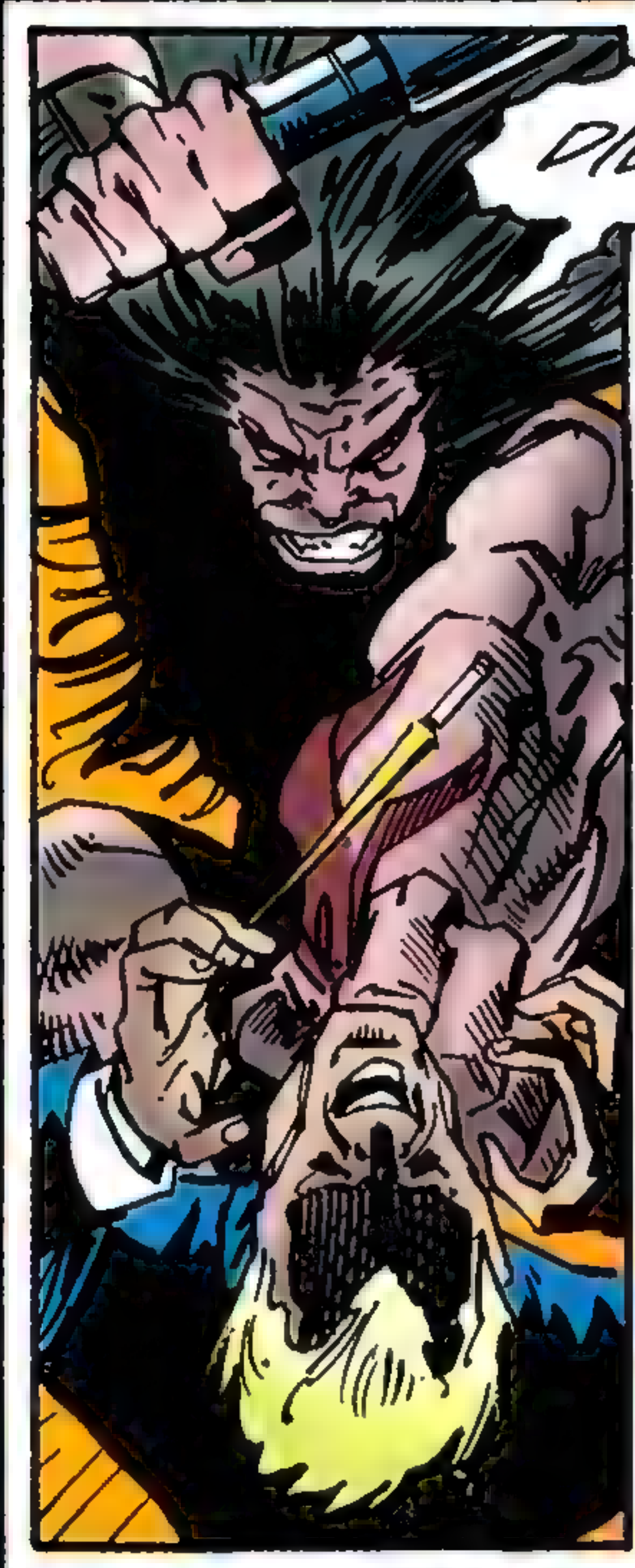
WORMS!

KNOCK!

SPASH!



CALL OFF YOUR DOG, MANNHEIM, OR I SWEAR YOU'LL--



DIE!!



KALIBAK--!



OUR AGREEMENT--!



I TRUST I'VE PROVEN
KALIBAK CAN HANDLE
SUPERMAN,
GENTLEMEN, SO--

SO WHAT?

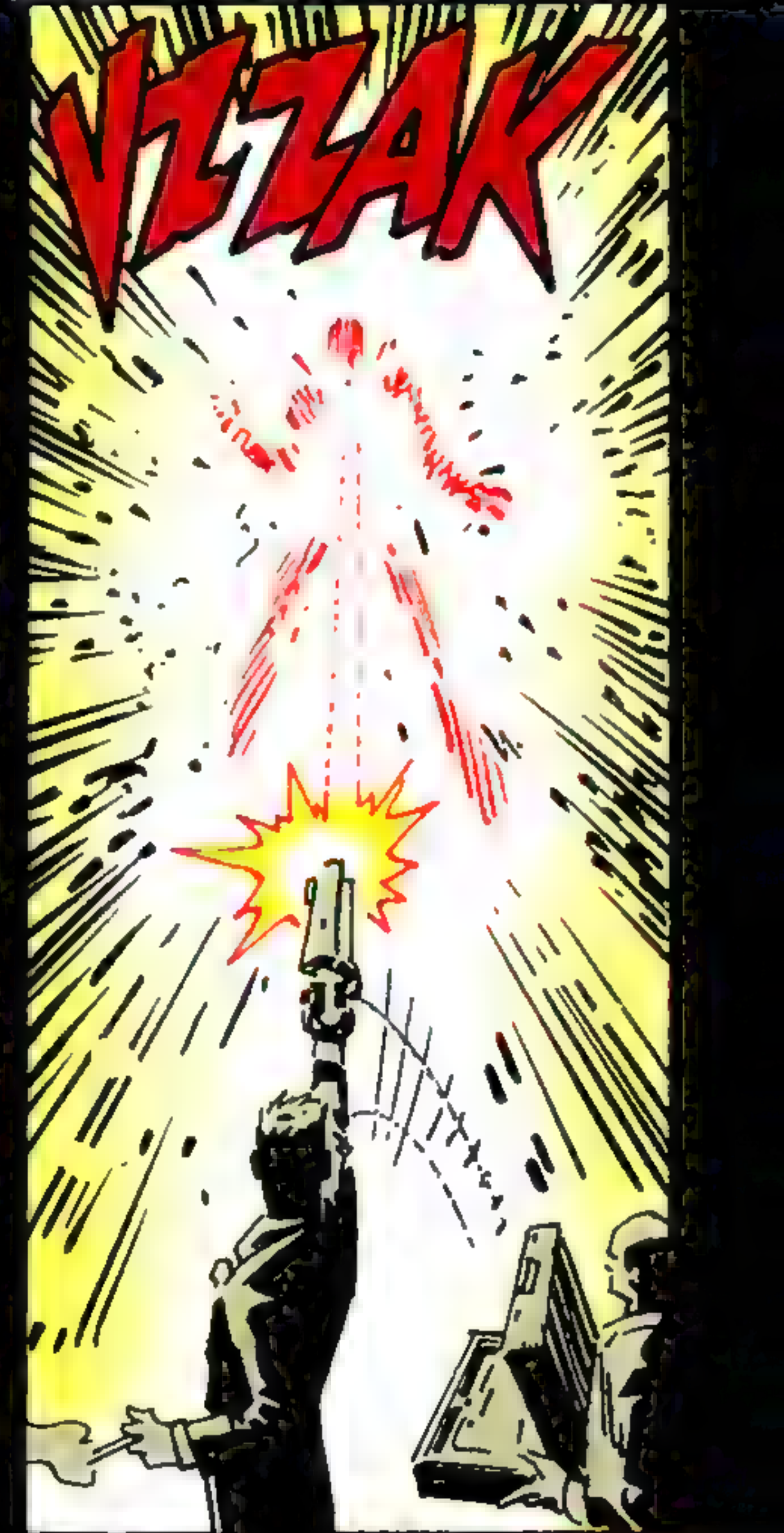


ANY PLACE THOSE
TWO MIX IT UP'LL BE
CRAWLIN' WITH
COPS!



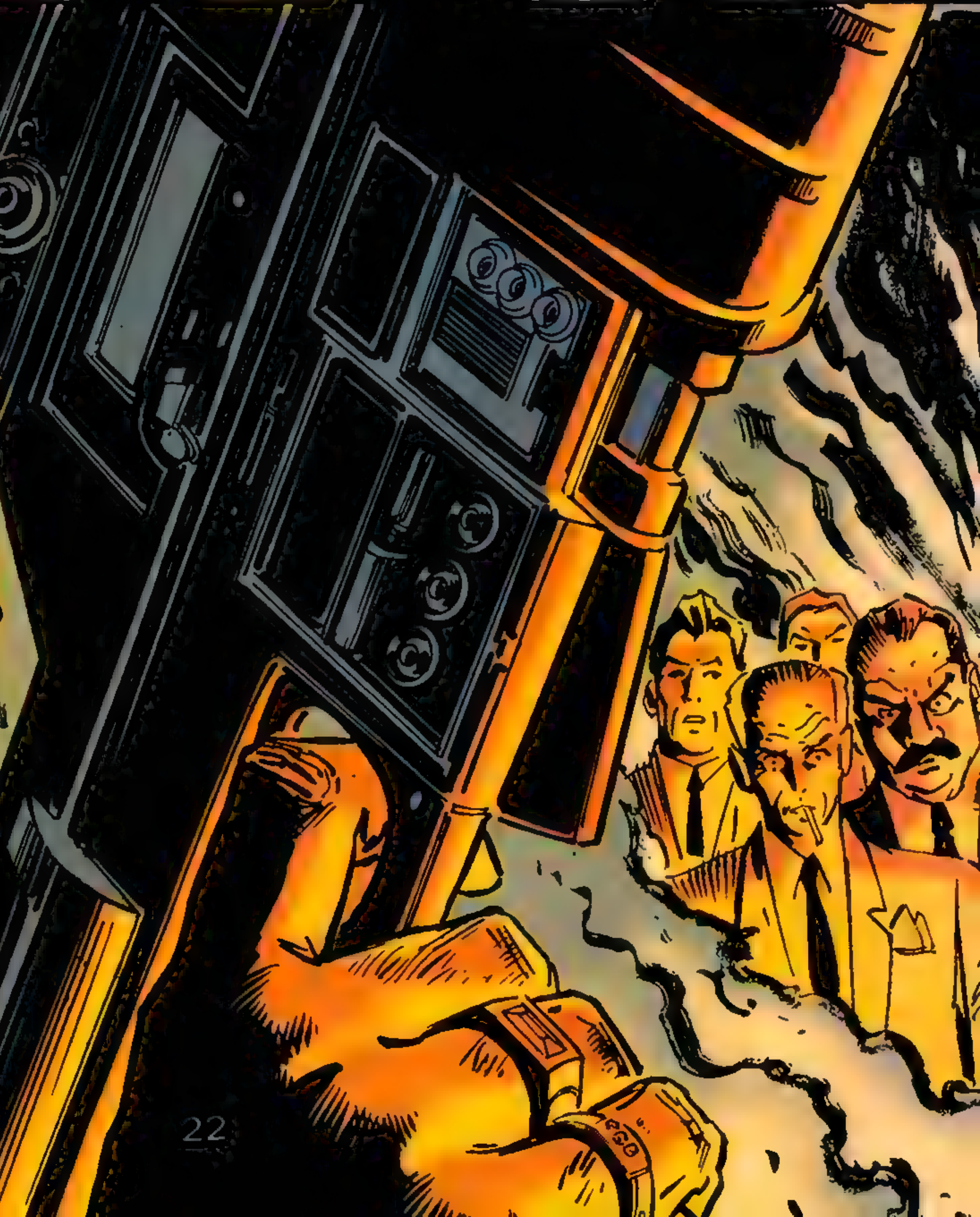
HOW YOU GONNA
HANDLE THAT, MR.
BIG-SHOT
MANNHEIM?

I'LL
SHOW
YOU...



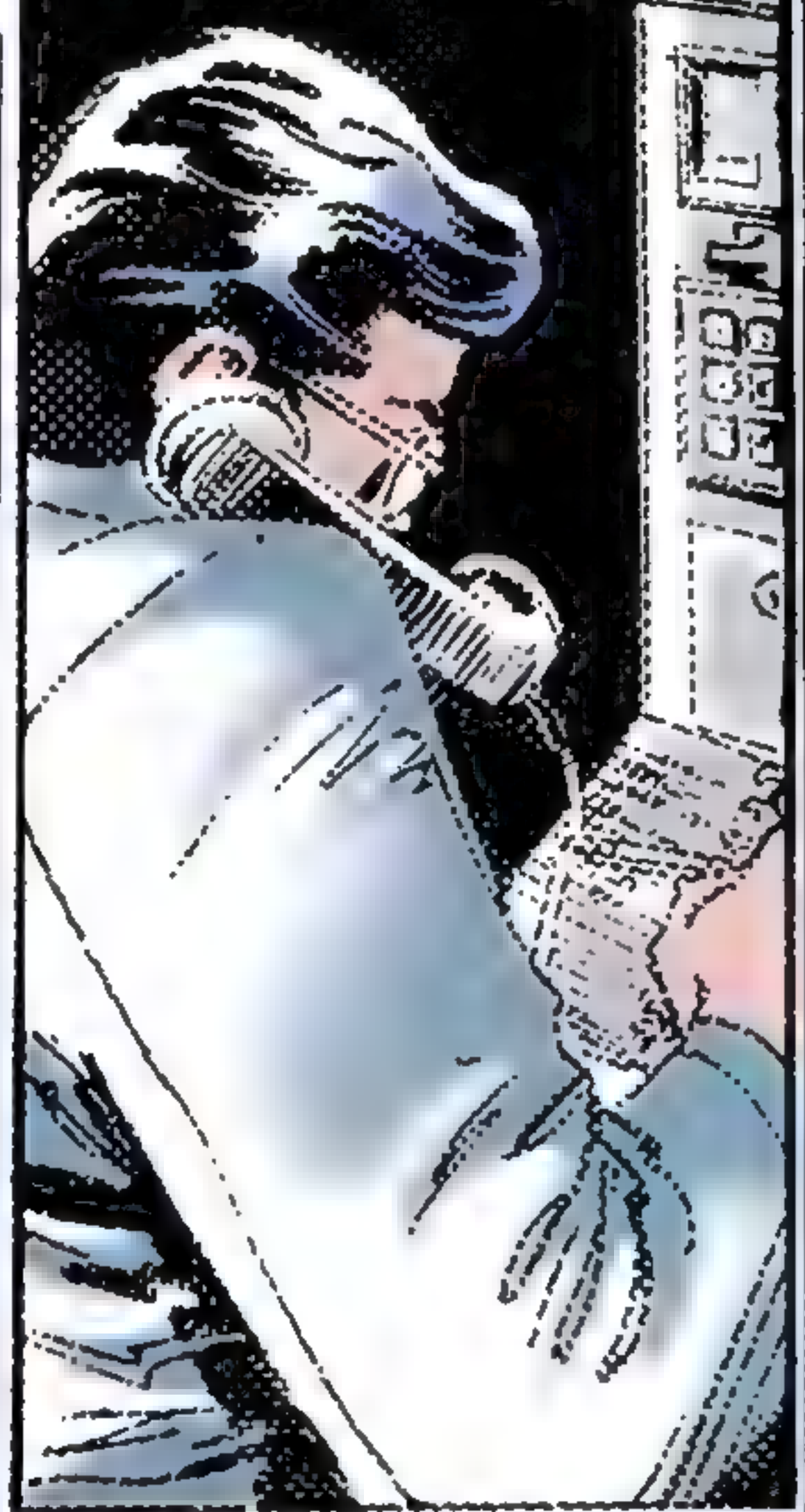
YOU GOT
ONE THING
RIGHT, SOL--

--I'M A
BIG SHOT
NOW!



...uh-huh...
IN TWO DAYS...
I'LL BE THERE,
MR. WHITE.

THANKS FOR
THIS JOB INTERVIEW--
I DON'T THINK
YOU'LL REGRET
IT!



IF THIS WORKS
OUT, I MIGHT BE
ABLE TO GET A
JOB AT THE DAILY
PLANET AND
SMOOTH THINGS
OVER WITH THE
POLICE AT THE
SAME TIME!



I HOPE FINDING
AN APARTMENT
IS AS EASY--!

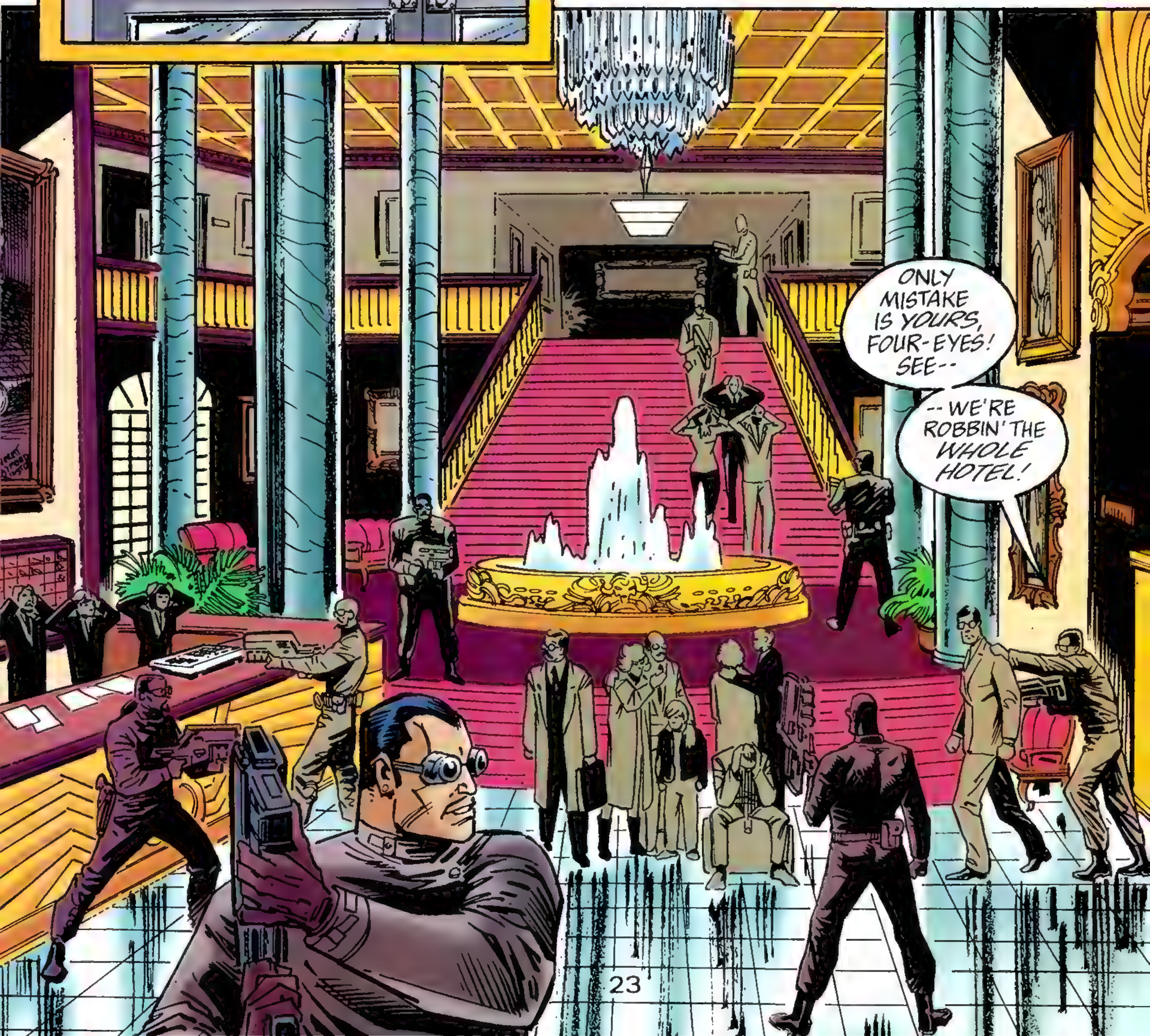
HOLD IT
RIGHT THERE,
FOUR-EYES!

THIS IS A
STICK-UP!



YOU'RE
ROBBING
ME?

BELIEVE
ME, THAT'S A
BIG MISTAKE!



ONLY
MISTAKE
IS YOURS,
FOUR-EYES!
SEE--

-- WE'RE
ROBBIN' THE
WHOLE
HOTEL!

OH, NO! MY SUPER-HEARING SHOULD'VE PICKED THIS UP, BUT I WAS TOO PRE-OCCUPIED...

HOW DO I CHANGE TO SUPERMAN NOW WITHOUT ENDANGERING THESE--

--HONORED GUESTS AND INTENDED VICTIMS-- WELCOME TO A NEW CRIME WAVE--

--INTERGANG STYLE!

BIGGER... BOLDER... MAYBE EVEN BLOODIER-- THAT'S UP TO YOU!

HEY, MANNHEIM-- LOOK WHAT WE FOUND UPSTAIRS-- A COP!

SHE'S NOT LOCAL, BUT SHE'S A BADGE!

MAKES THINGS A LITTLE MORE INTERESTING, huh?

NOT IF I CAN HELP IT! BUT HOW--?

THERE! THAT FIRE ALARM!

OH-OH! BAD NEWS!

NOT SO FAST, SWEET-CHEEKS!

THIS... AGK!... THIS'LL BRING THE... M. P. D. DOWN ON YOU... LIKE A TON OF... BRICKS... MANNHEIM!

LET 'EM COME, SWEET-CHEEKS! LET SUPERMAN COME!

SEE--WE GOT OURSELVES A HOSTAGE COP-- AN' A FEW MORE TRICKS UP OUR SLEEVES!



--WHAT'S THE SITUATION, HENDERSON?

IT'S LIKE A GANGSTER CONVENTION IN THERE, GREG--MEMBERS OF EVERY FAMILY WORKING TOGETHER!

THEY TOOK THE PLASTINO HOTEL ABOUT TWO HOURS AGO. NO SHORTAGE OF RICH GUESTS OR HOSTAGES.

TWO FIREMEN WENT DOWN WHEN RESPONDING TO THE ALARM. WE'VE CORDONED OFF THE BLOCK SINCE TH--

EAT HOT PLASMA-BLASTS, COPPERS!



DID I MENTION THEY'VE GOT ULTRA-HIGH FIREPOWER COVERING THE STREET?

THEN WE APPROACH FROM THE ADJOINING ROOFS!



COUNT ME IN, GREG!

THIS HERE'S WHERE MAGGIE SAWYER'S STAYIN', AN' I WANNA MAKE SURE--

"--SHE DIDN'T COME TO METROPOLIS JUST TO DIE!"

CLEAR.

MOVEMENT!

TOO LATE,
JOHN LAW!

YOU'RE
TOAST!

BLAM!
BLAM!
BOOM!
BOOM!

TWO DOWN EACH
SIDE... NOT GOOD,
GREG.

IF THINGS
GET
WORSE--

THEY
DO, LITTLE
MAN!

MUCH
WORSE!

CRASH



BOSS--!?

EASY, BOYS--!



I'D SAY SUPERMAN JUST GOT HERE!

AN' GOT A LITTLE SURPRISE, TOO!



IF MANNHEIM THINKS SUPERMAN'S ON THE ROOF, THIS DISTRACTION'S THE PERFECT TIME--

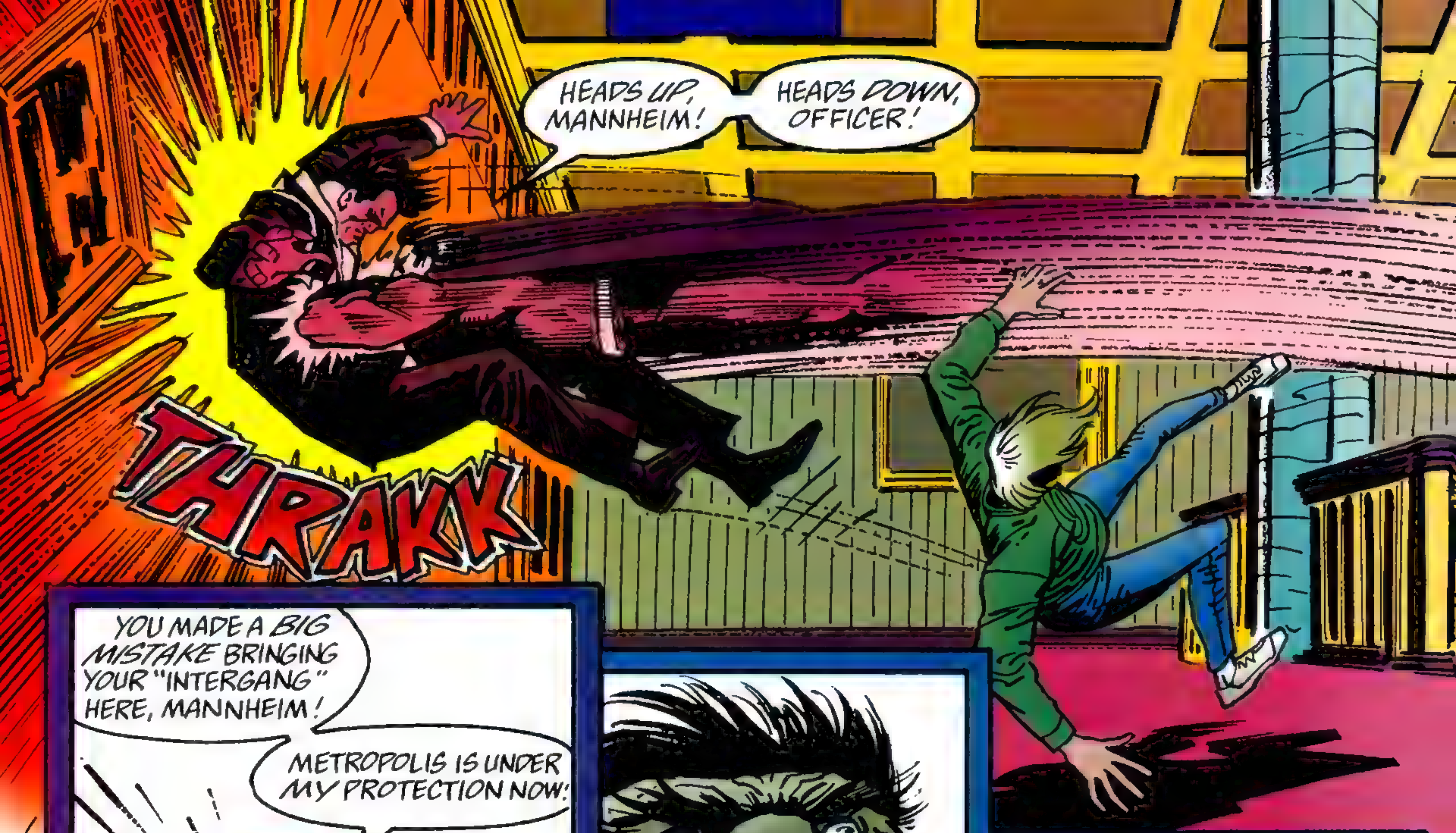
--TO GIVE THAT MOBSTER A LITTLE SURPRISE OF HIS OWN!

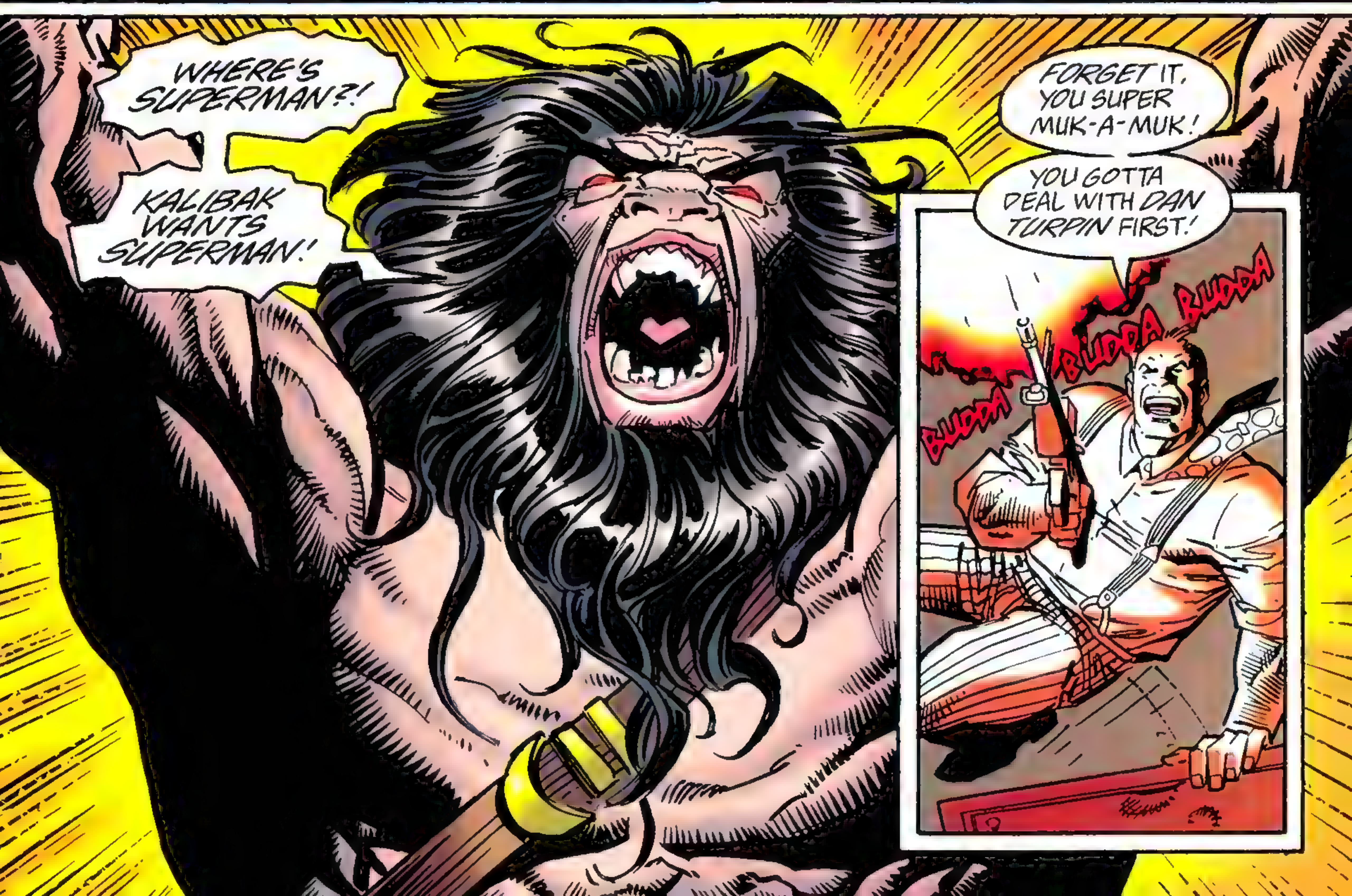
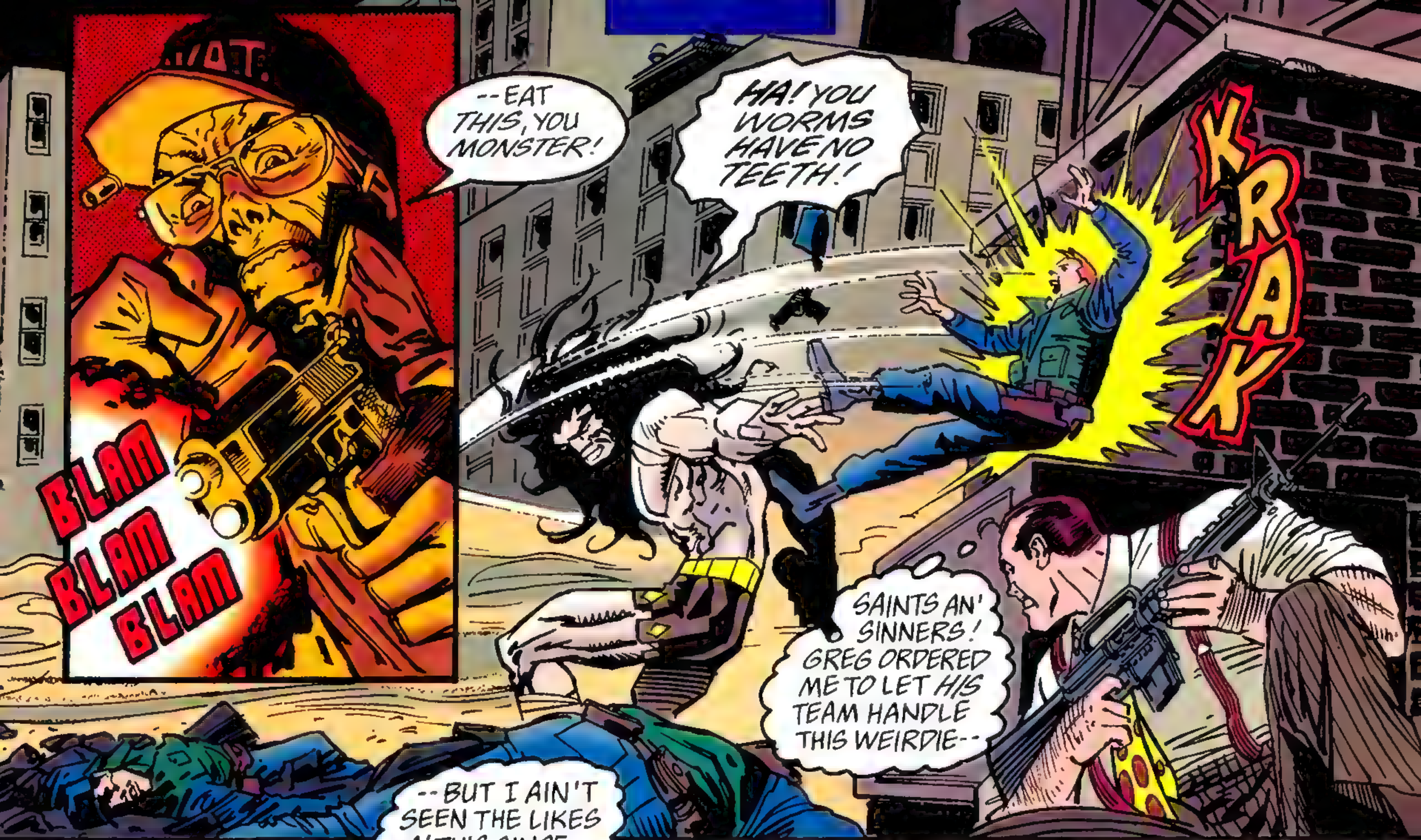


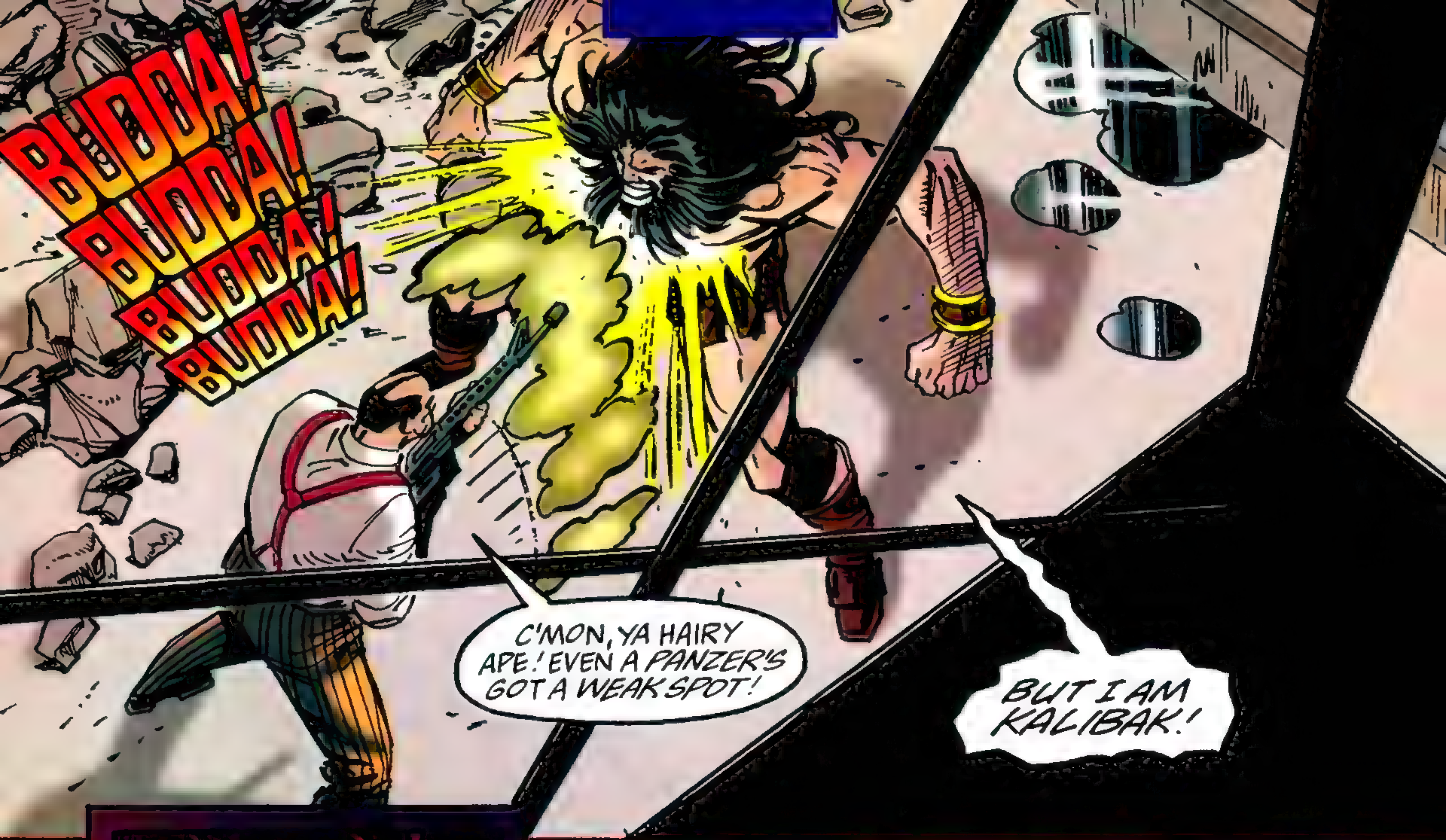
LOOK! UP IN THE...uh, THE--

LOOK UP THERE!

IT'S THAT SUPERMAN!







C'MON, YA HAIRY APE! EVEN A PANZER'S GOT A WEAK SPOT!

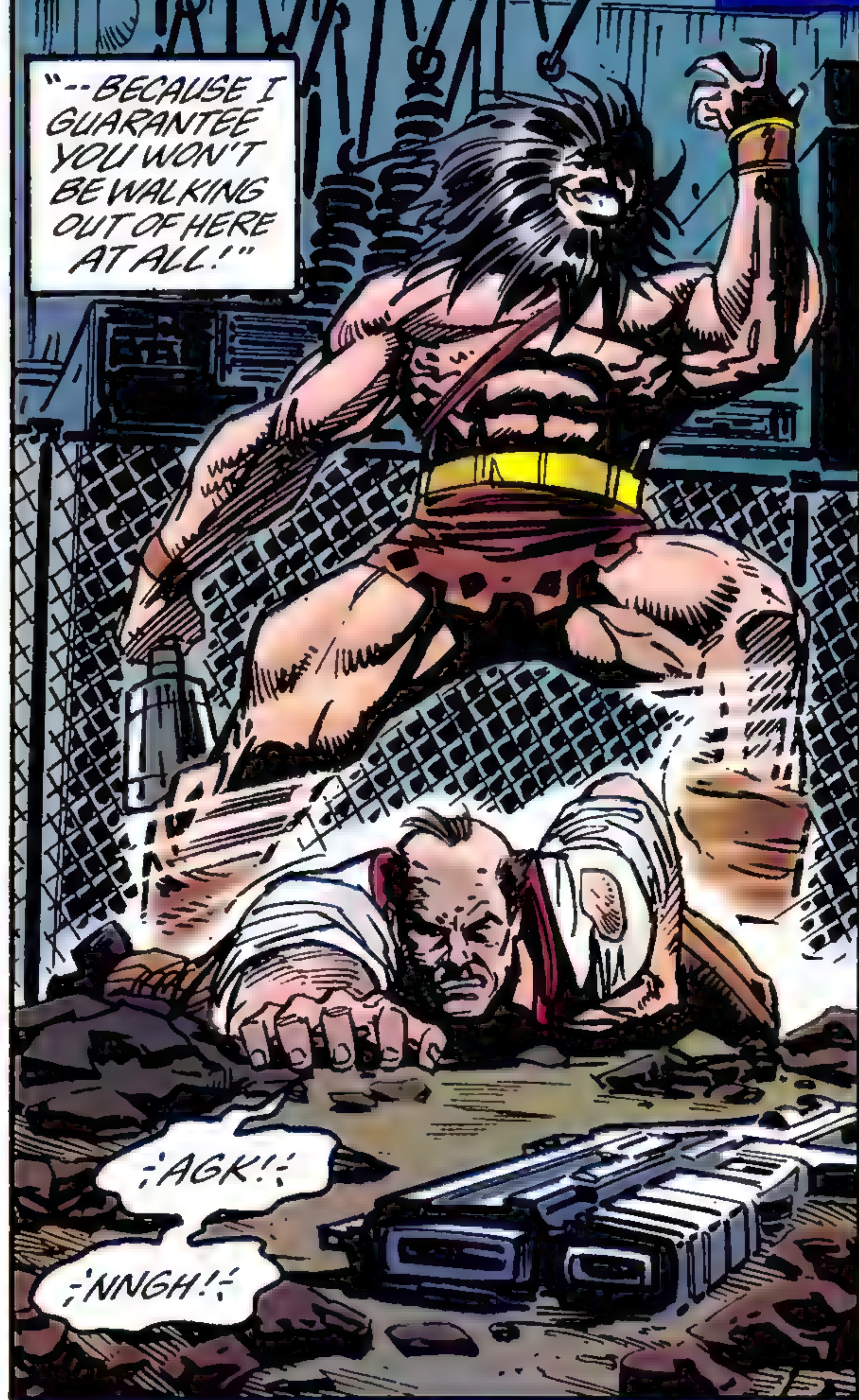
BUT I AM KALIBAK!



"YOU'LL HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN THAT--"



"--BECAUSE I
GUARANTEE
YOU WON'T
BE WALKING
OUT OF HERE
AT ALL!"



AGK!!

NNGH!!

YAARG!

YOU'RE
A TOUGH
BUG!

KALIBAK
LIKES
THAT!

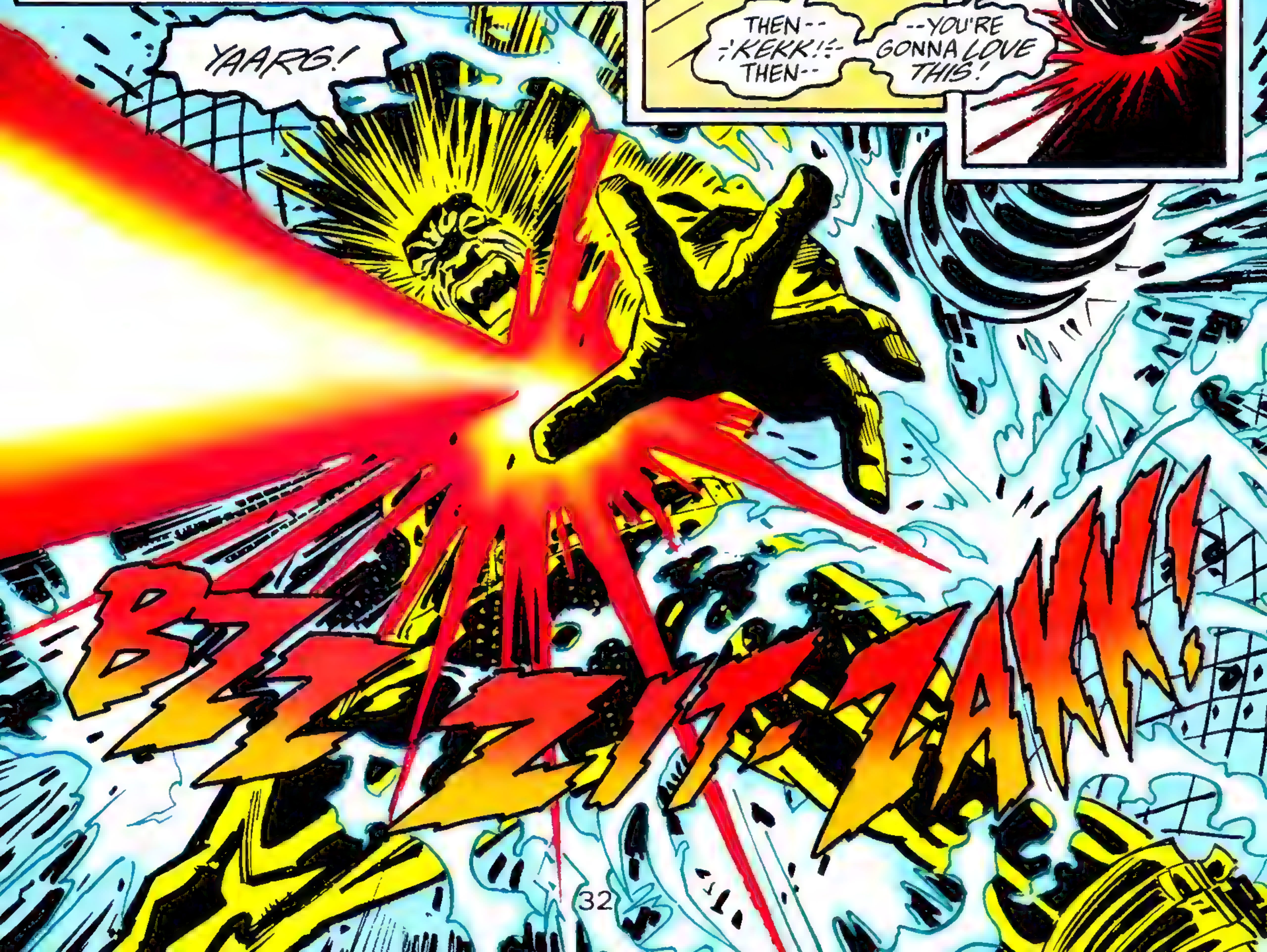


Y-YEAH...?

THEN--
KEKK!!
THEN--

--YOU'RE
GONNA LOVE
THIS!

WAAAA



THE POWER--!

DON'T SWEAT IT, "OFFICER SAWYER"--LIKE THAT ONE GOD SAID...

SOMETHING WITH THE ROOFTOP GENERATOR..?

"...LET THERE BE LIGHT!"

"OR IN THIS CASE--FIRE FROM THE PITS OF APOKOLIPS!"

WHAT--?!

SPRINKLE CLOTH

FWOONK

33

THE POWER--!

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SPRINT CLUTCH

FWOONK

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WHAT--?!

SPRINT CLUTCH

FWOONK

33

THE POWER--!

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SOMETHING WITH THE ROOFTOP GENERATOR..?

"...LET THERE BE LIGHT!"

"OR IN THIS CASE-- FIRE FROM THE PIT OF APOKOLIPS!"

WHAT--?!

SPARK CLUTCH

FWOONK

33

THE POWER--!

DON'T SWEAT IT, "OFFICER SAWYER" --LIKE THAT ONE GOD SAID...

SOMETHING WITH THE ROOFTOP GENERATOR..?

"...LET THERE BE LIGHT!"

"OR IN THIS CASE-- FIRE FROM THE PITS OF APOKOLIPS!"

WHAT--?!

SPRINKLE CLOTH

FWOONK

33

FIRE'S CLINGING
TO MY BODY! HEAT'S
UNBEARABLE!
DON'T KNOW IF I CAN
TAKE THIS---

BUT THE HOTEL AND
EVERYONE IN IT WILL BE
CINDERS IF I DON'T GET
OUT OF HERE--

--FAST!

FORGET THE
LOOT AN'
HOSTAGES,
BOYS!

WE GOT
SUPERMAN ON
THE RUN--LET'S
FINISH
HIM!

THIS IS OUR
ONE CHANCE,
PEOPLE!

EVERYONE
OUT THE
BACK
RIGHT--

--NOW!
BEFORE THE
ENTIRE BLOCK
GOES UP!

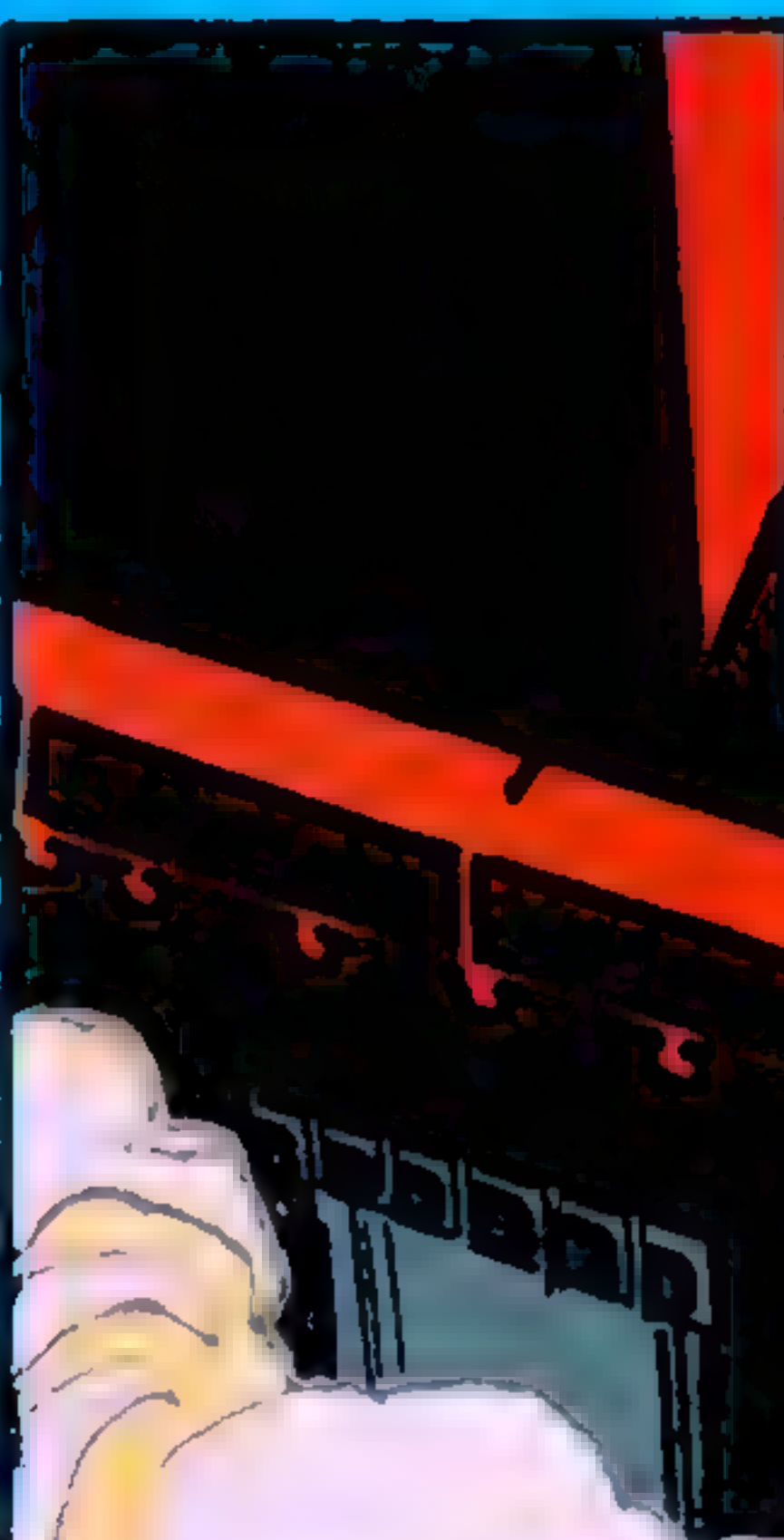
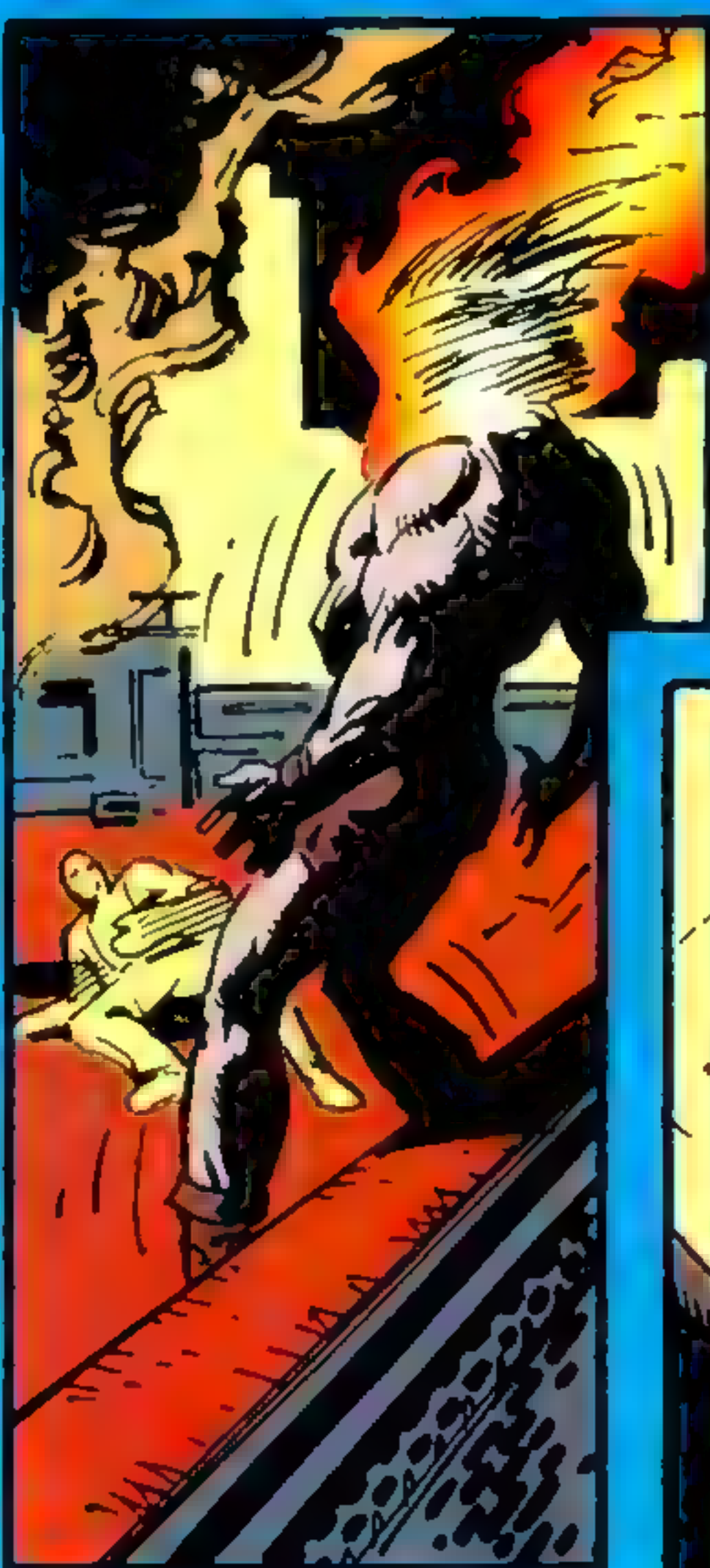
AT LEAST
TRY TO SAVE
HIM!

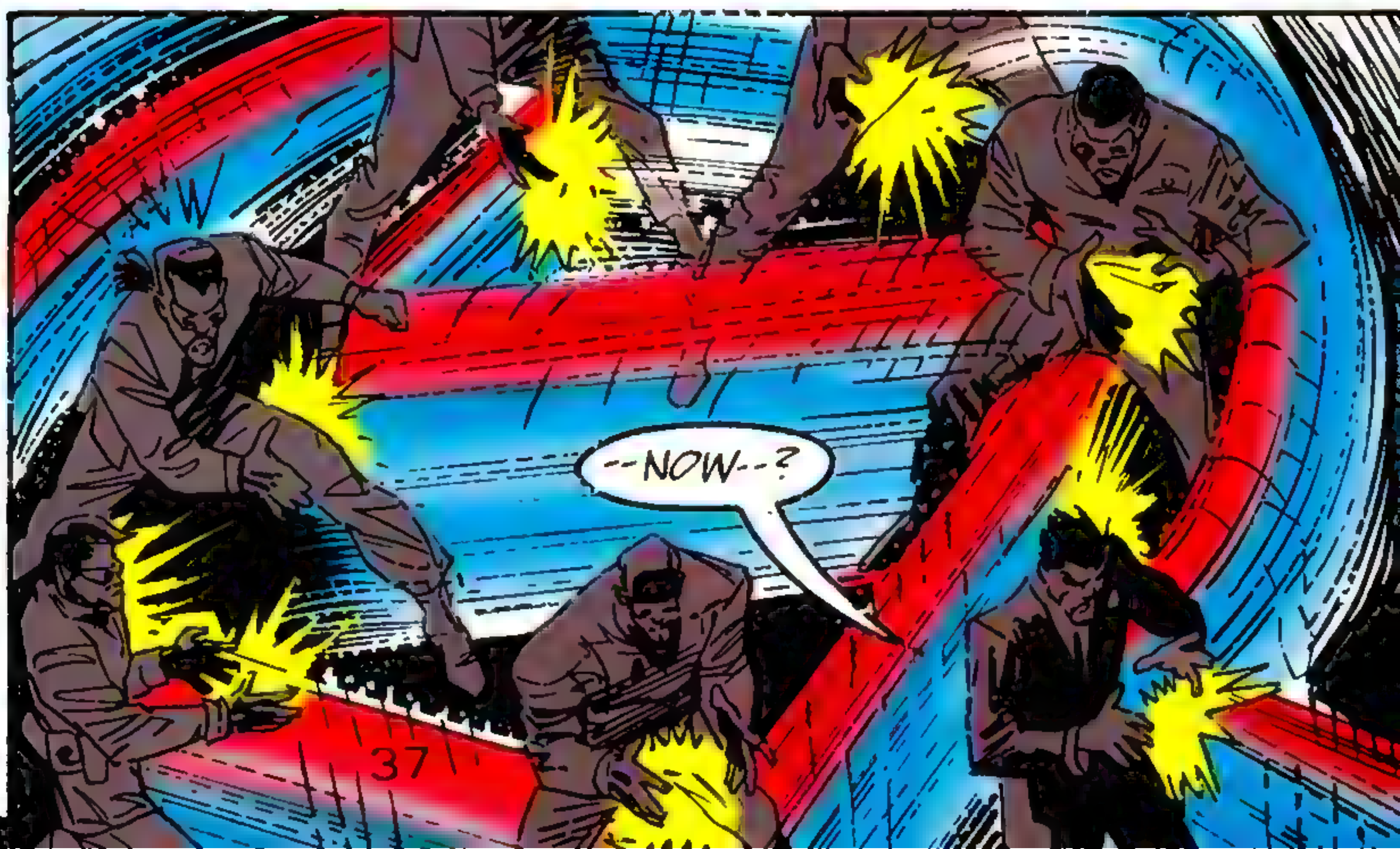
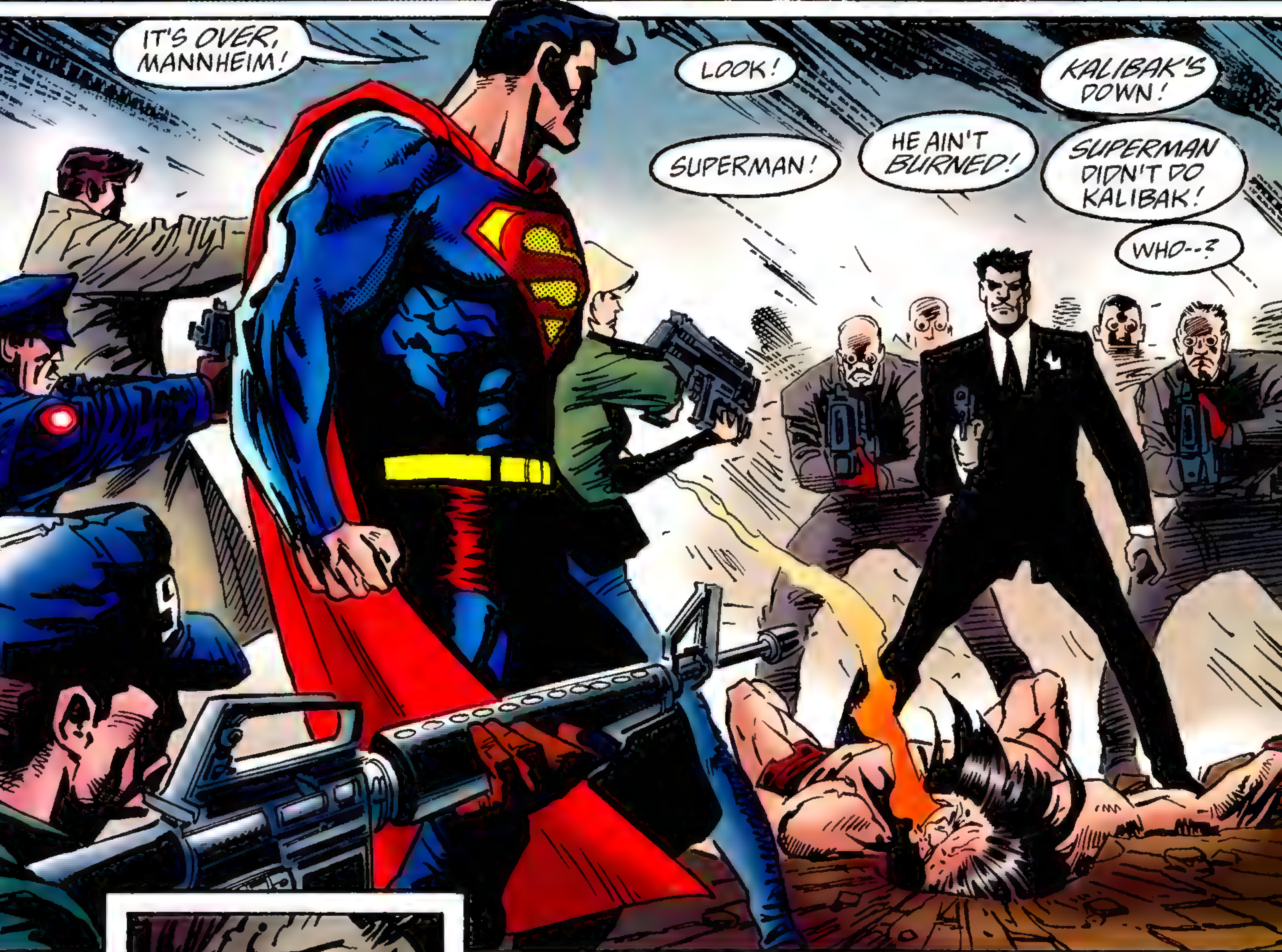
WE'LL PUT
THE FIRE OUT,
CAPTAIN--

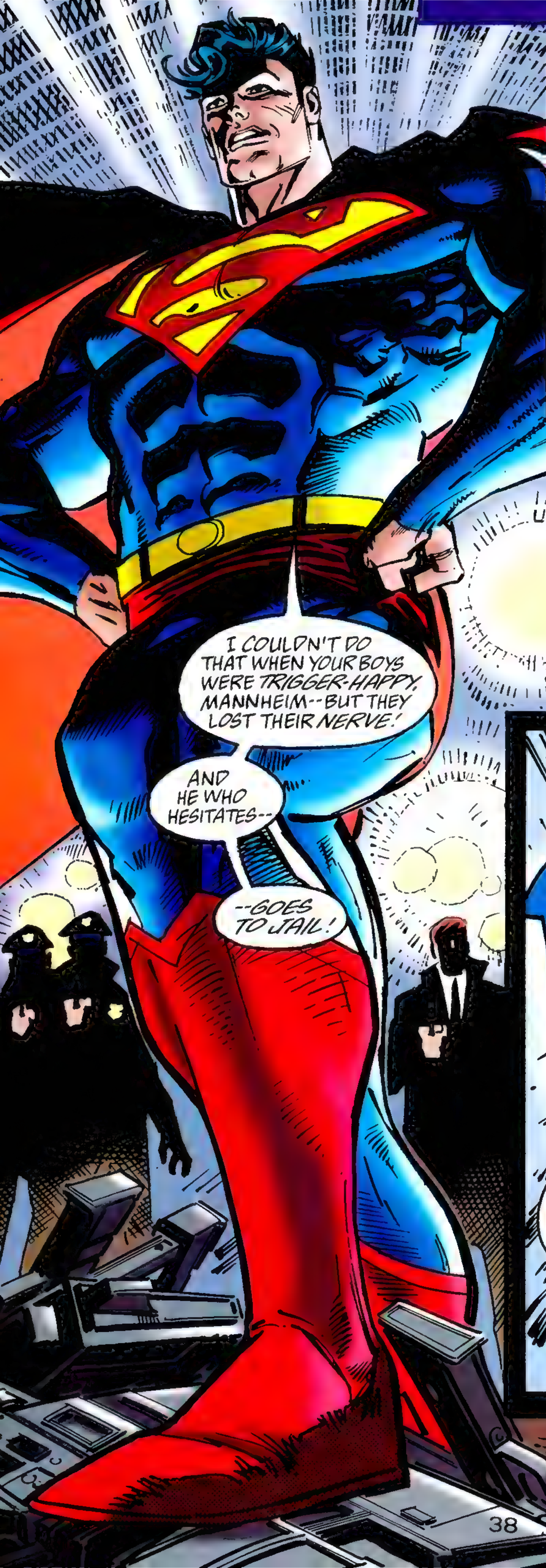
--BUT I CAN'T
SEE HOW THERE'LL
BE MUCH LEFT TO
SAVE!





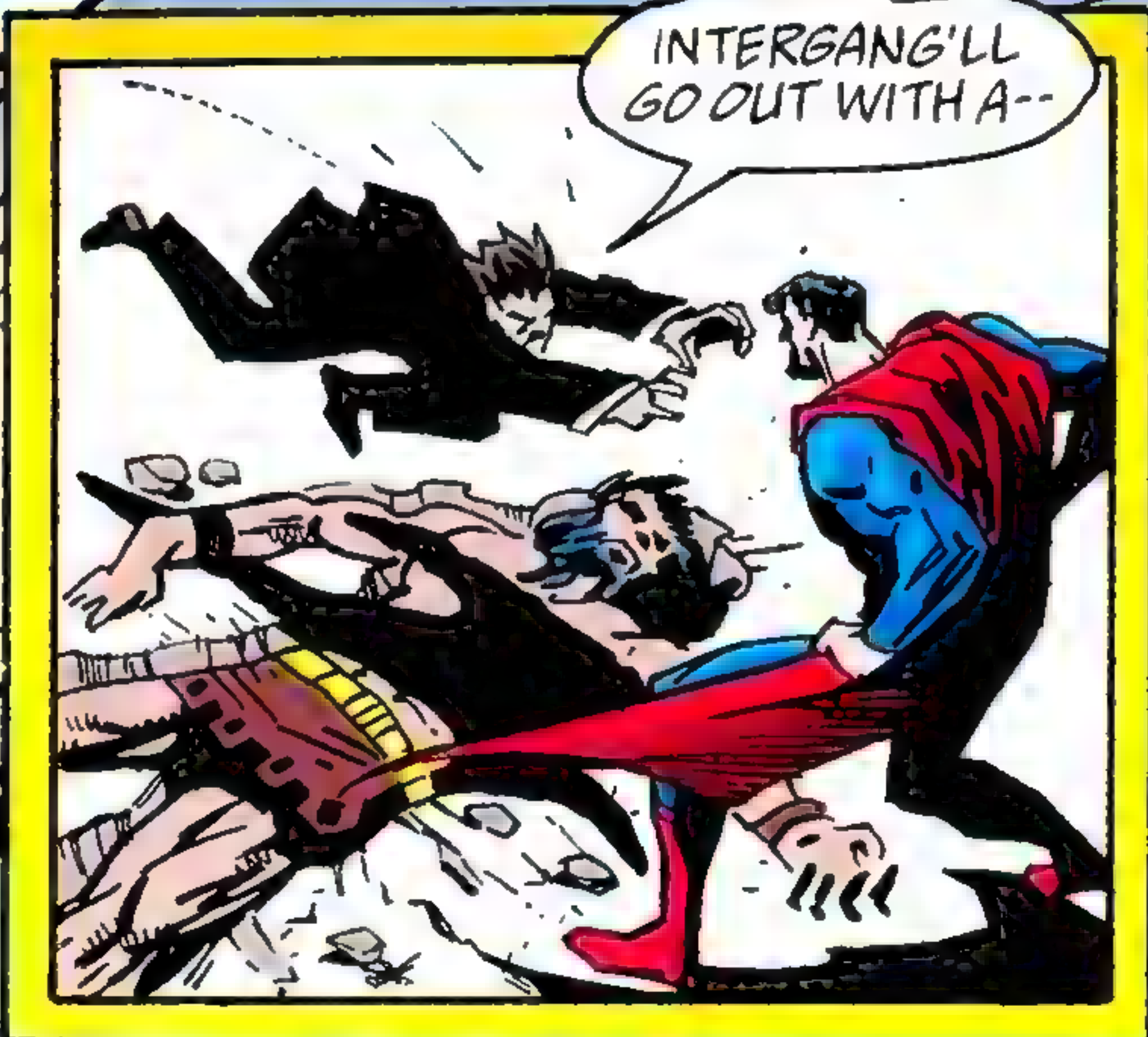






NO!!
THIS AIN'T
THE END--NOT
FOR ME,
SUPERMAN!

INTERGANG
WON'T GO
OUT WITH A
WHIMPER!



INTERGANG'LL
GO OUT WITH A--

I COULDN'T DO
THAT WHEN YOUR BOYS
WERE TRIGGER-HAPPY,
MANNHEIM--BUT THEY
LOST THEIR NERVE!

AND
HE WHO
HESITATES--

--GOES
TO JAIL!

BOOM!

WHAT ON
EARTH--?

MY SUPER-
VISION SAW
SOME SORT
OF... TUBE
MATERIALIZING,
CAPTAIN.



IT WHISKED
MANNHEIM
AND KALIBAK
AWAY--



--AND
SOMETHING
TELLS ME
THEY'RE NOT
ON EARTH ANY
LONGER!



YUP! TAKES A LICKIN' AN' KEEPS ON TICKIN'!

FIX 'IM GOOD, BOYS, OR HELL COME FOR YA!

--SO THIS IS "TERRIBLE" TURPIN?



EXCUSE ME-- OFFICER SAWYER?

TOBY RAINES, DAILY STAR. HEAR YOU SAVED A LOT OF HOSTAGES BACK THERE.

ONLY AFTER SUPERMAN TOOK ALL THE HEAT.

LITERALLY.

WELL, PERSONALLY I THINK WE COULD USE MORE COPS LIKE YOU AND LESS LIKE, OH, CAPTAIN REAGAN!



REAGAN IS A GOOD COP-- LIKE MY HUSBAND.

MAYBE TOO MUCH LIKE MY HUSBAND...

I MEAN--

DON'T WORRY. THAT'S OFF THE RECORD.



I'M GOOD AT THAT SORT OF THING IF Y'KNOW...

IF YOU EVER NEED TO...TALK...

MAYBE.

YEAH, MAYBE I--



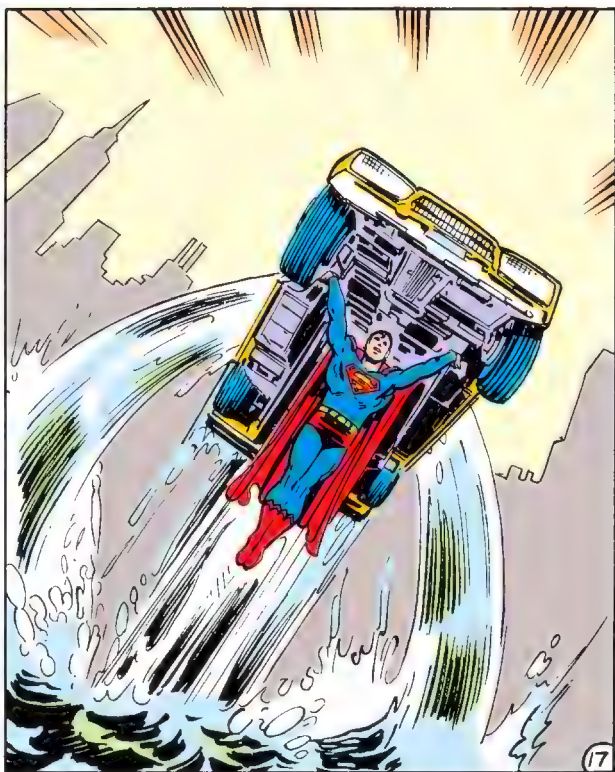
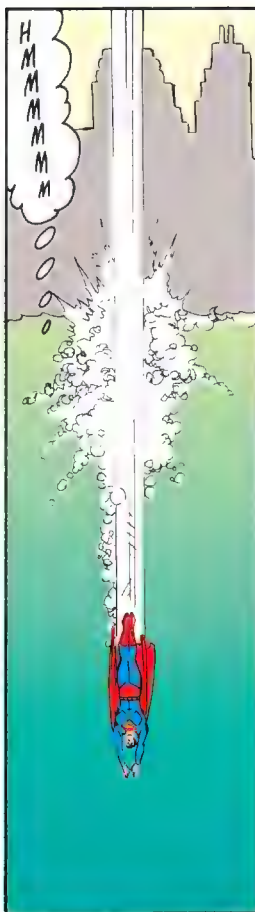
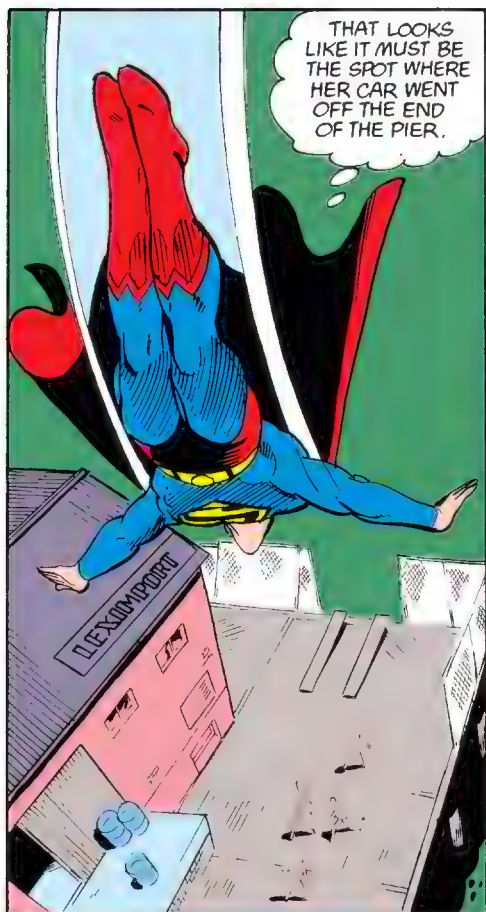
--I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

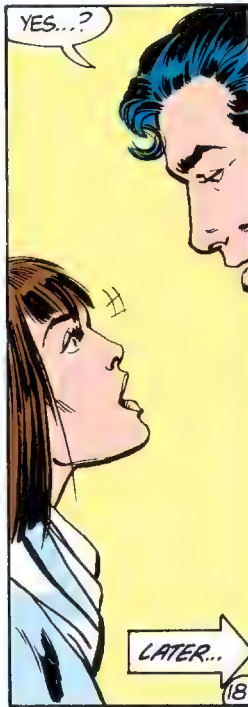
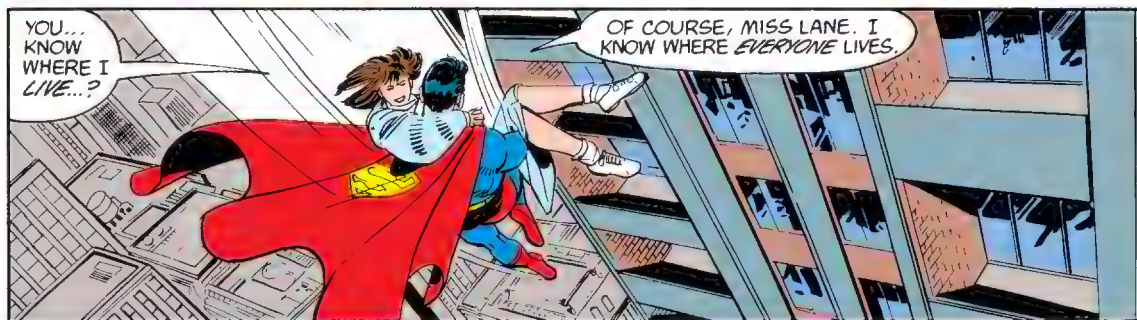
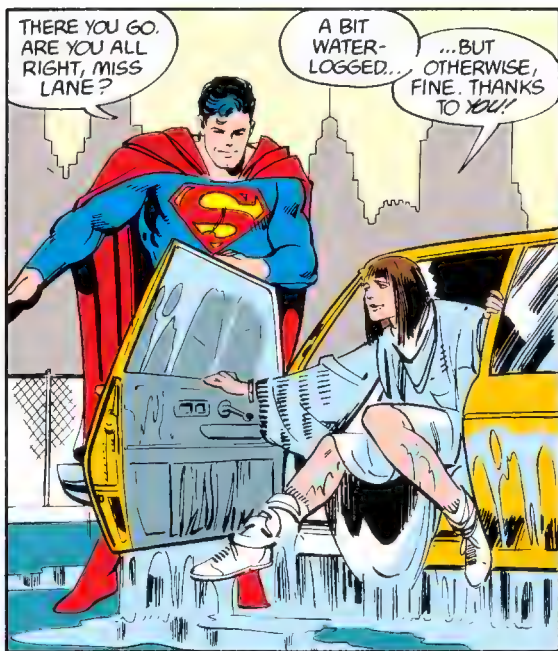
I CAN'T BELIEVE I MISSED SUPERMAN AGAIN!

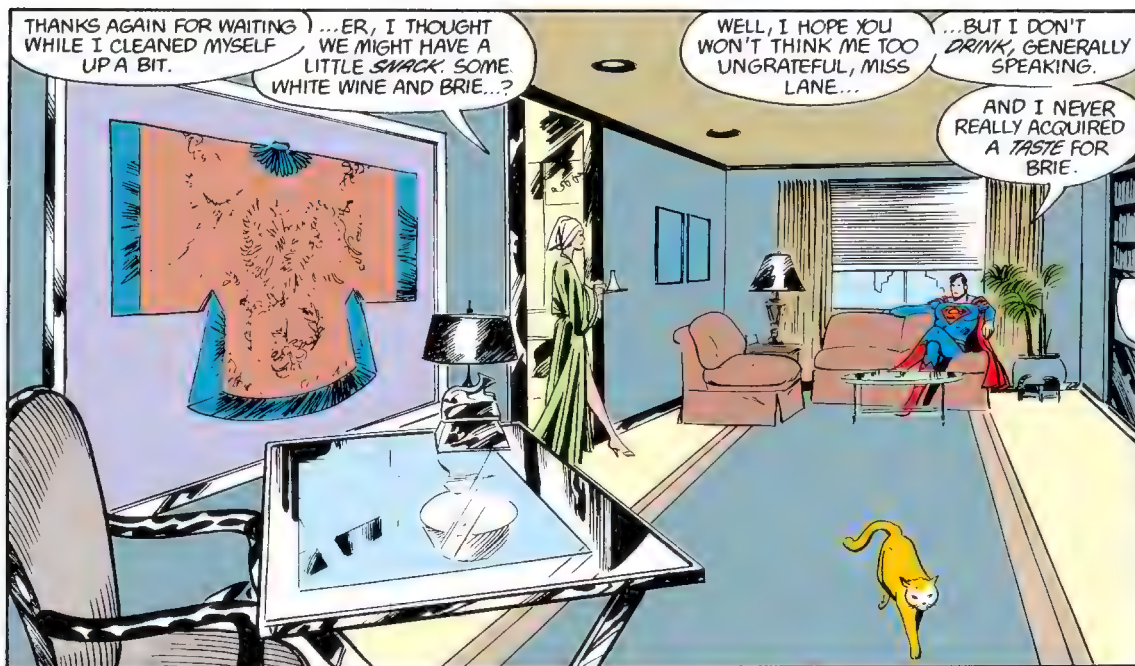


"THINGS SEEMED TO HAVE QUIETED DOWN A BIT..."









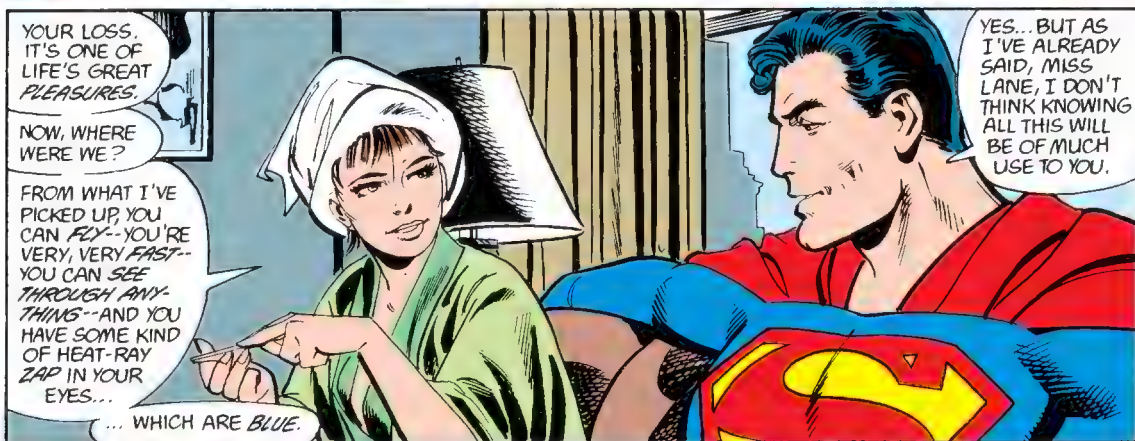
THANKS AGAIN FOR WAITING WHILE I CLEANED MYSELF UP A BIT.

...ER, I THOUGHT WE MIGHT HAVE A LITTLE *SHACK*. SOME WHITE WINE AND BRIE...?

WELL, I HOPE YOU WON'T THINK ME TOO UNGRATEFUL, MISS LANE...

...BUT I DON'T *DRINK*, GENERALLY SPEAKING.

AND I NEVER REALLY ACQUIRED A *TASTE* FOR BRIE.



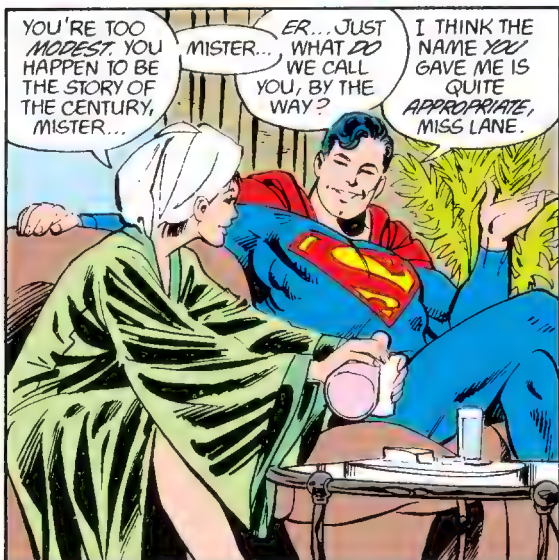
YOUR LOSS. IT'S ONE OF LIFE'S GREAT PLEASURES.

NOW, WHERE WERE WE?

FROM WHAT I'VE PICKED UP, YOU CAN *FLY*--YOU'RE VERY, VERY FAST--YOU CAN *SEE THROUGH ANY THINGS*--AND YOU HAVE SOME KIND OF HEAT-RAY ZAP IN YOUR EYES...

... WHICH ARE BLUE.

YES... BUT AS I'VE ALREADY SAID, MISS LANE, I DON'T THINK KNOWING ALL THIS WILL BE OF MUCH USE TO YOU.



YOU'RE TOO *MODEST*. YOU HAPPEN TO BE THE STORY OF THE CENTURY, MISTER...

MISTER... ER... JUST WHAT DO WE CALL YOU, BY THE WAY?

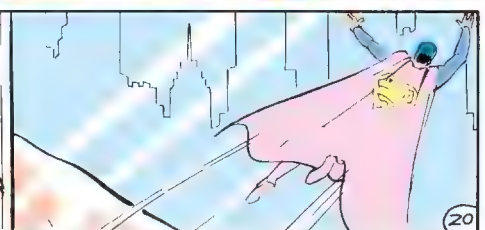
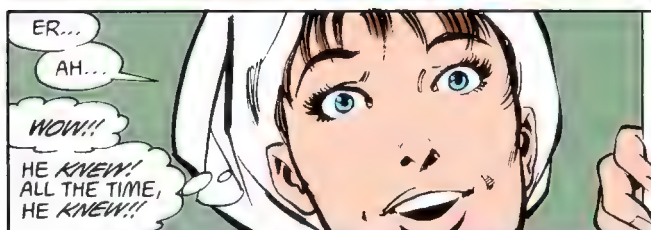
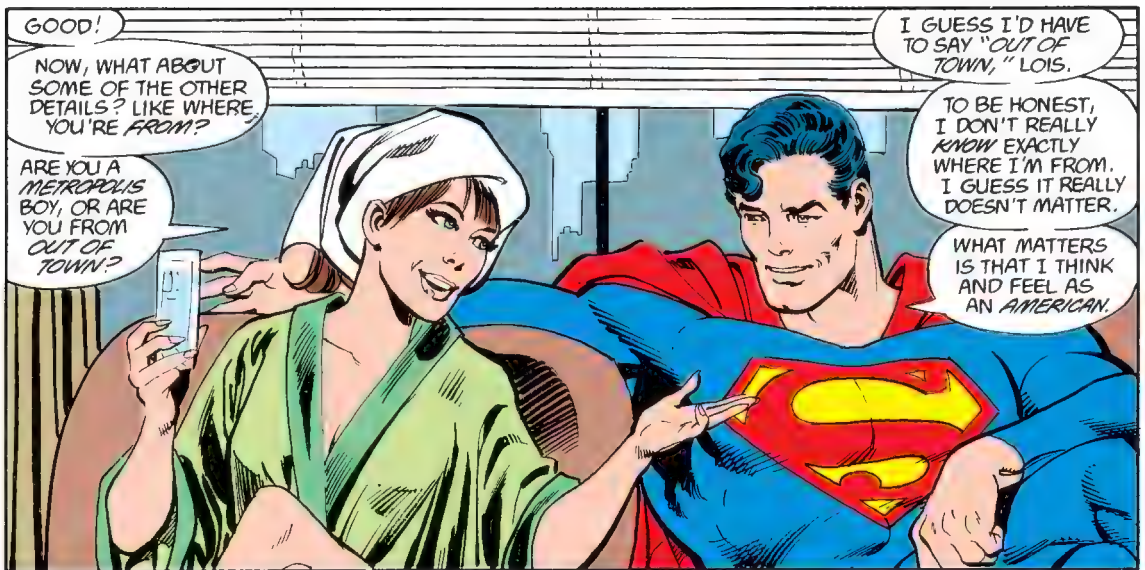
I THINK THE NAME YOU GAVE ME IS QUITE APPROPRIATE, MISS LANE.

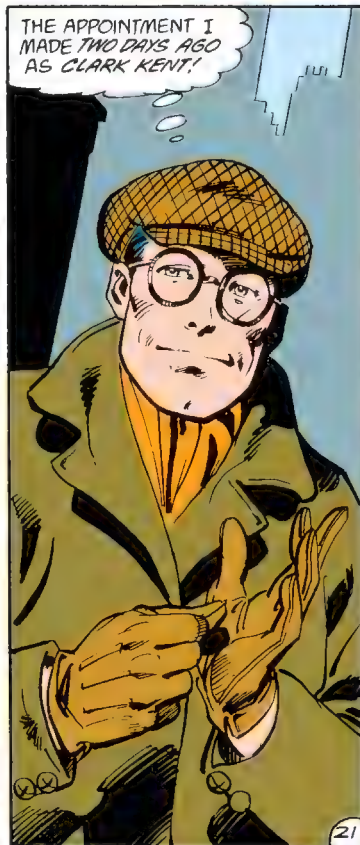
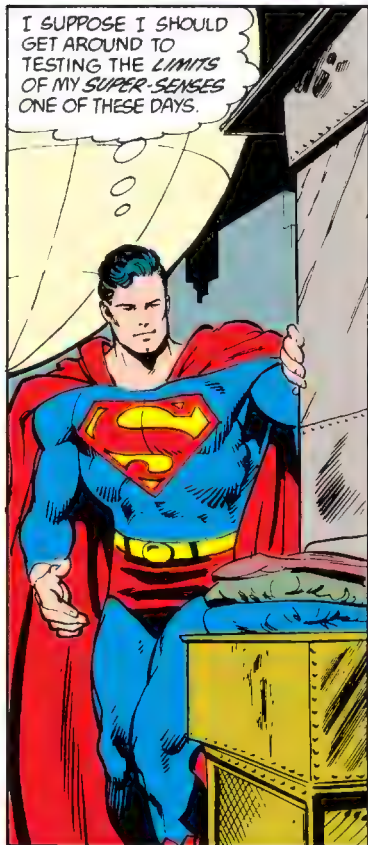


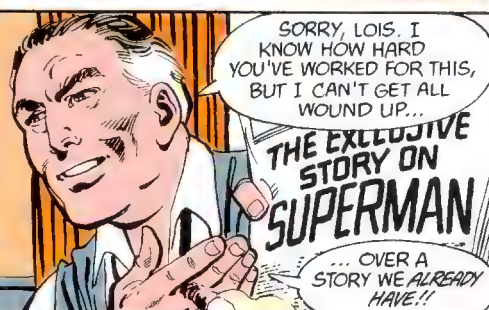
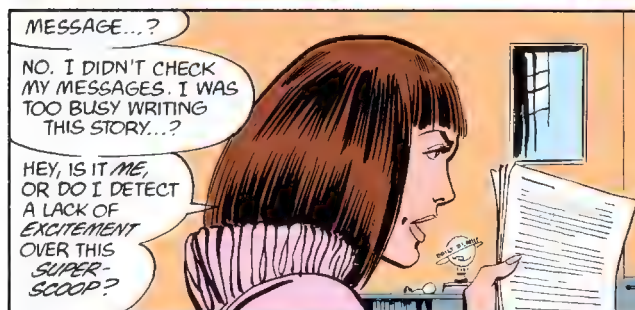
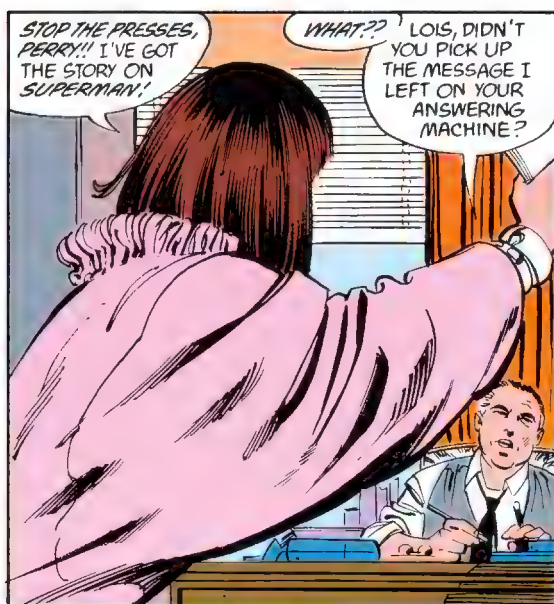
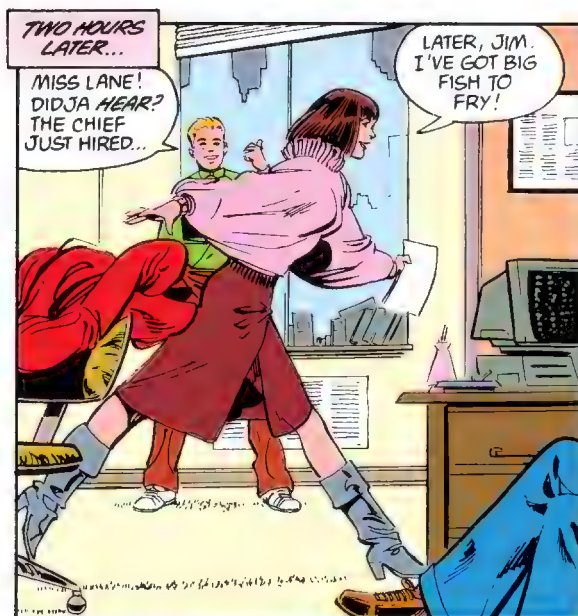
"SUPERMAN"?

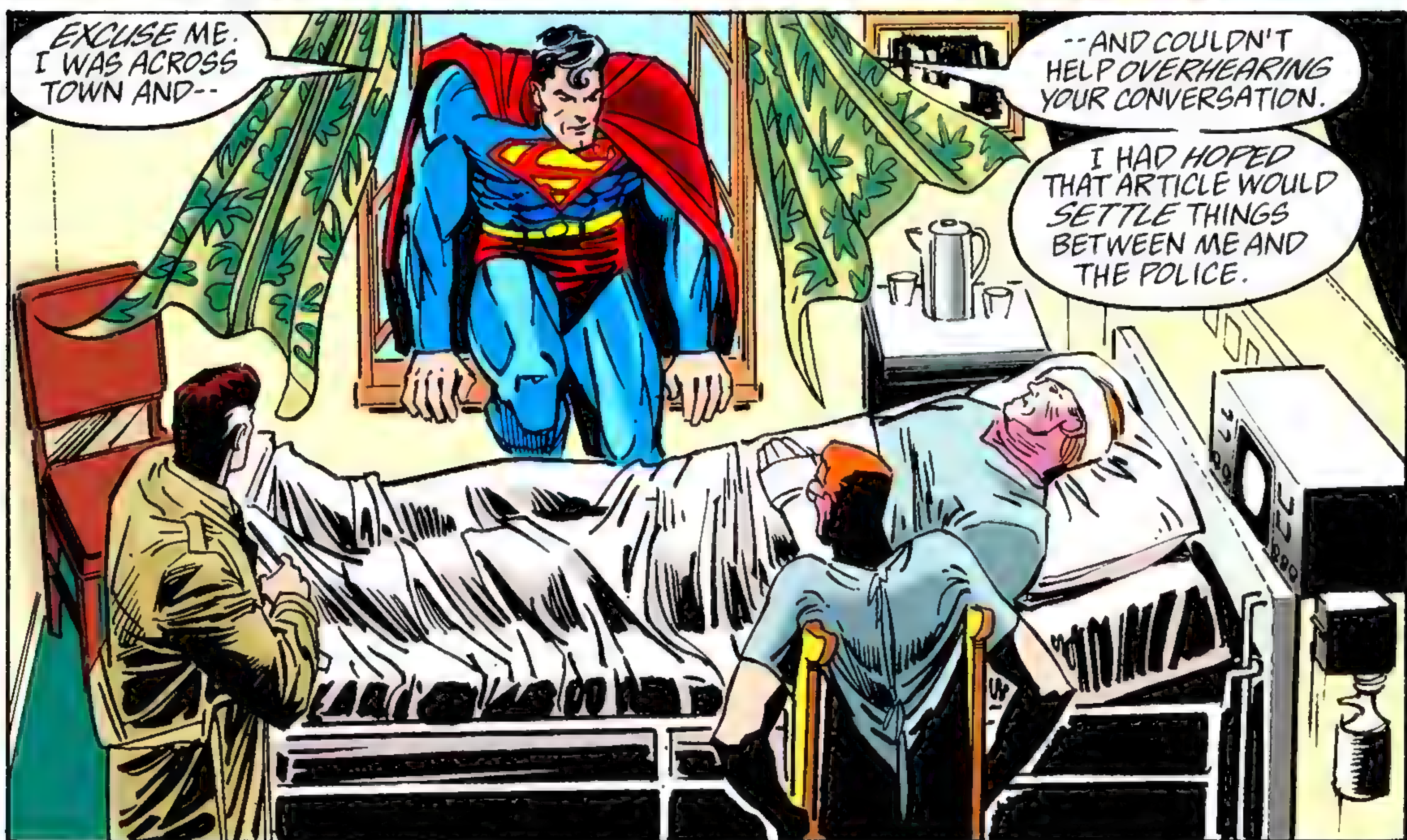
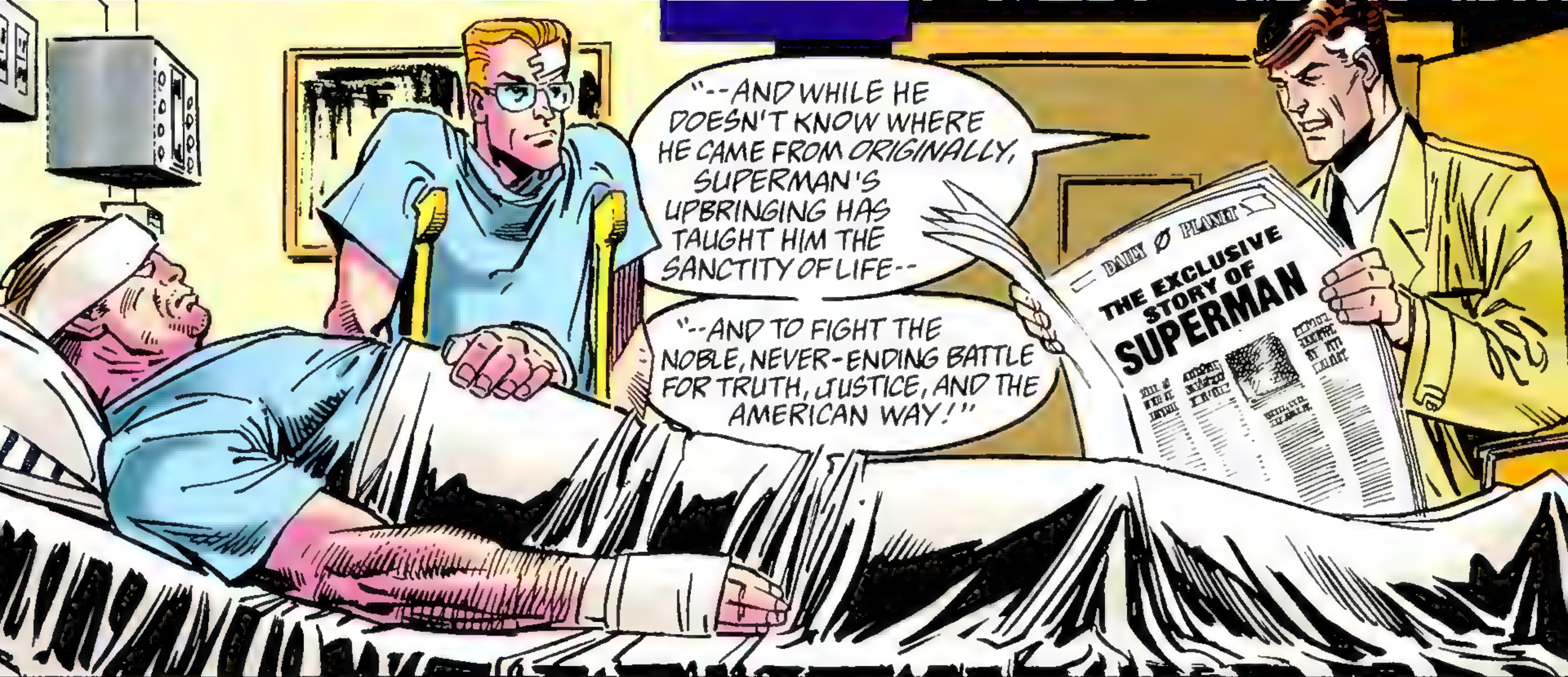
ALL RIGHT, SUPERMAN IT IS! NOW, IS THERE ANY WAY I CAN GET YOU TO CALL ME "LOIS"?

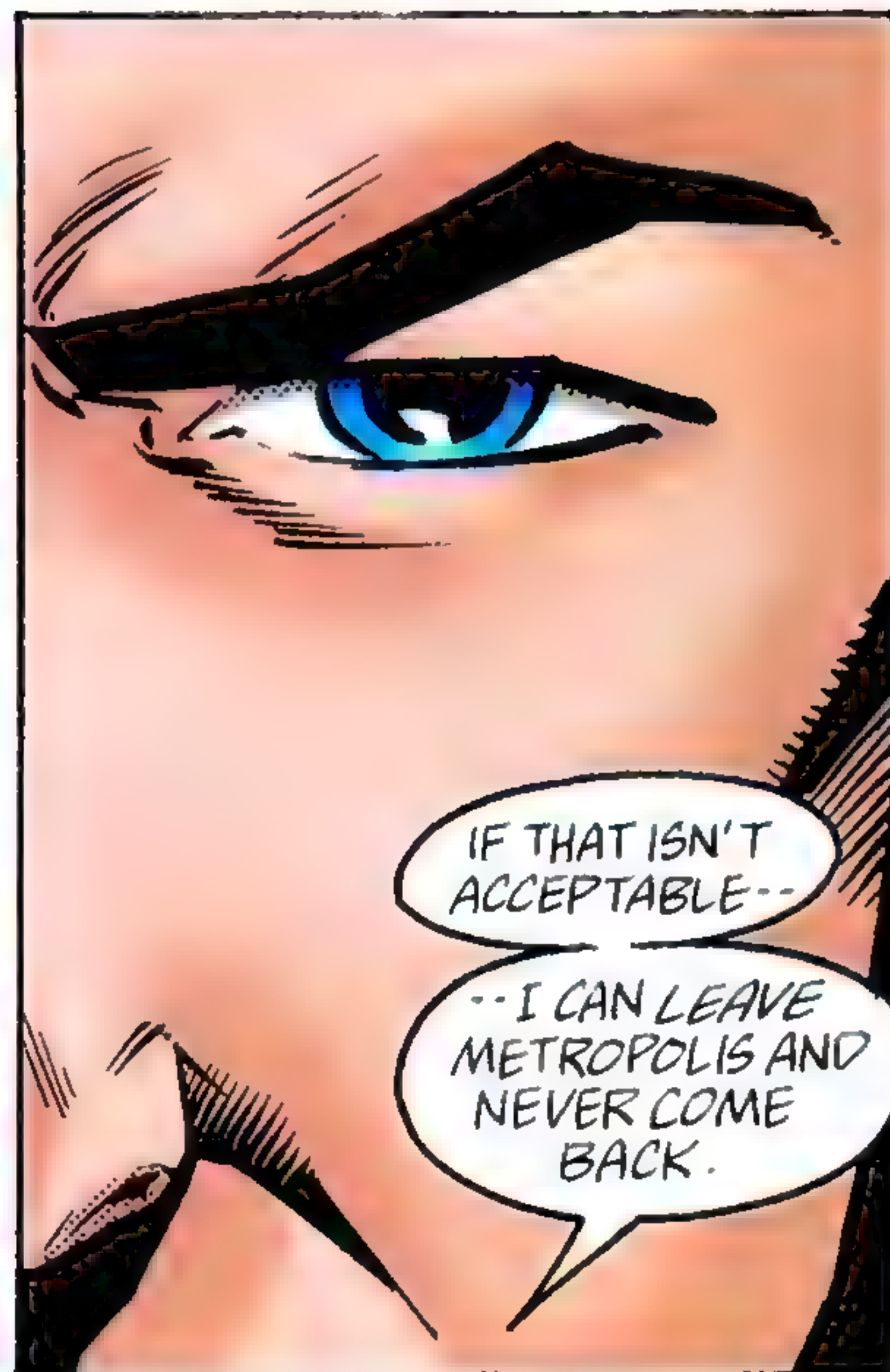
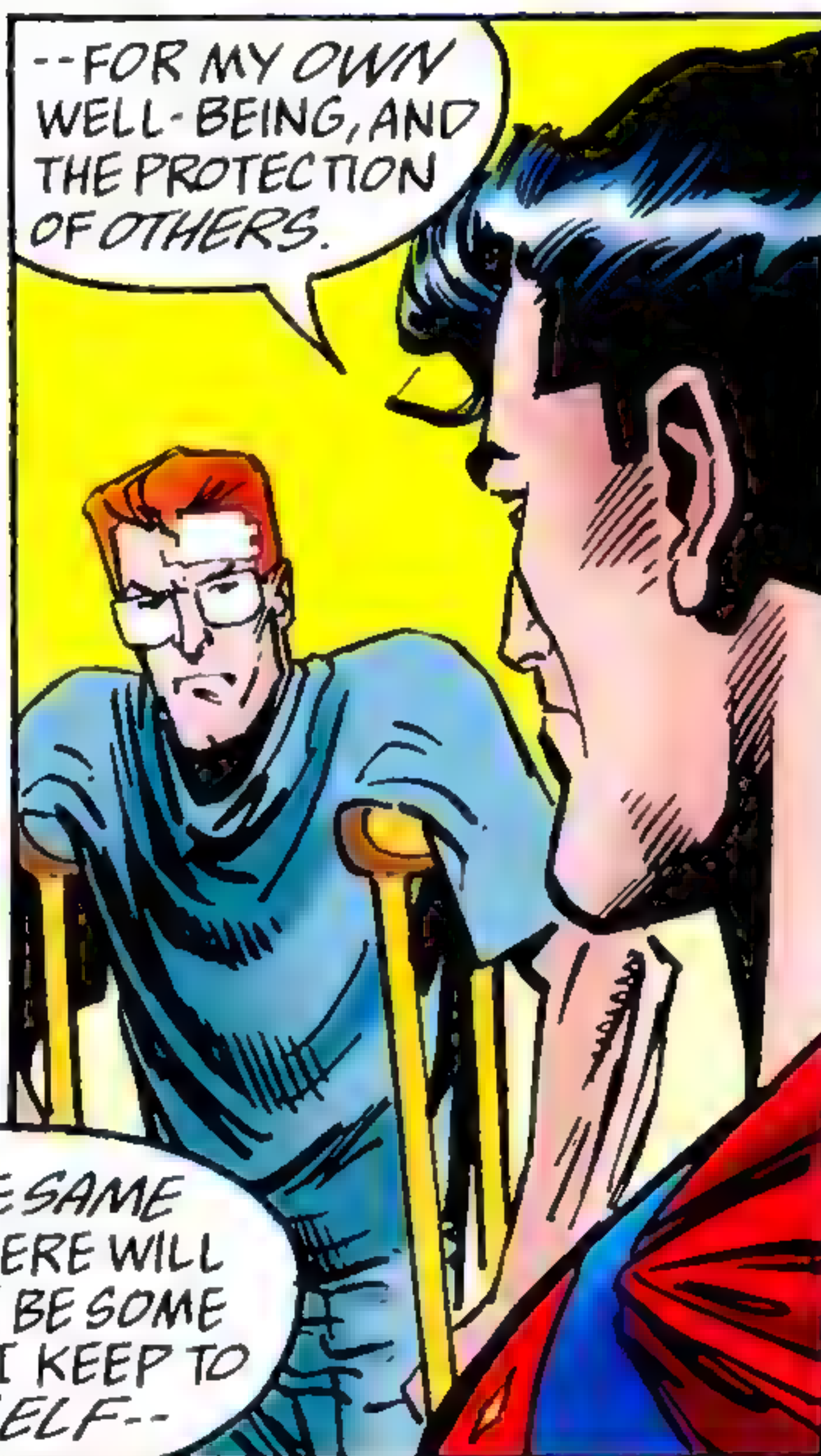
OF COURSE. I'D BE DELIGHTED, LOIS.







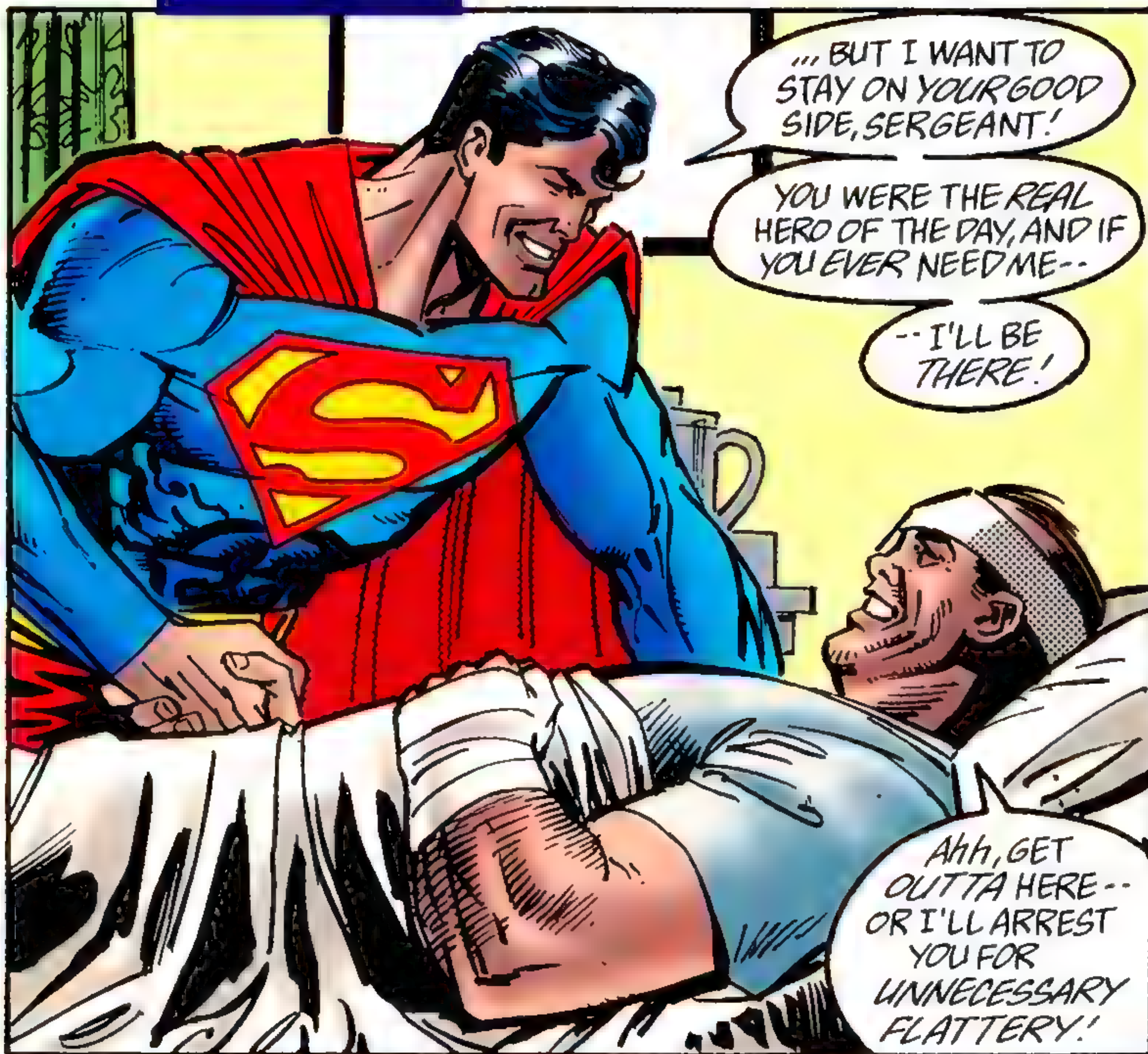






I'M...
SORRY
ABOUT--

DON'T BE. I
KNEW I WASN'T
GOING TO BE
EVERYONE'S
FRIEND...



... BUT I WANT TO
STAY ON YOUR GOOD
SIDE, SERGEANT!

YOU WERE THE REAL
HERO OF THE DAY, AND IF
YOU EVER NEED ME--

-- I'LL BE
THERE!

AHH, GET
OUTTA HERE--
OR I'LL ARREST
YOU FOR
UNNECESSARY
FLATTERY!



YOU DON'T HAVE
TO TELL ME TWICE,
SERGEANT!

SEE YOU
AROUND,
CAPTAIN.

I THINK WE'VE
JUST BEGUN A
WHOLE NEW
ERA IN
METROPOLIS!



YES. AND THE
CRIMINALS ARE
ALREADY
ADAPTING.

THE COMMISSIONER
DOESN'T WANT THE
POLICE FALLING
BEHIND, DAN.

HE'S THINKING OF
SETTING UP A UNIT
TRAINED TO HANDLE
THESE... SPECIAL
CRIMES.

HE WAS
WONDERING IF
YOU'D BE
INTERESTED IN
RUNNING
IT?

ME?!

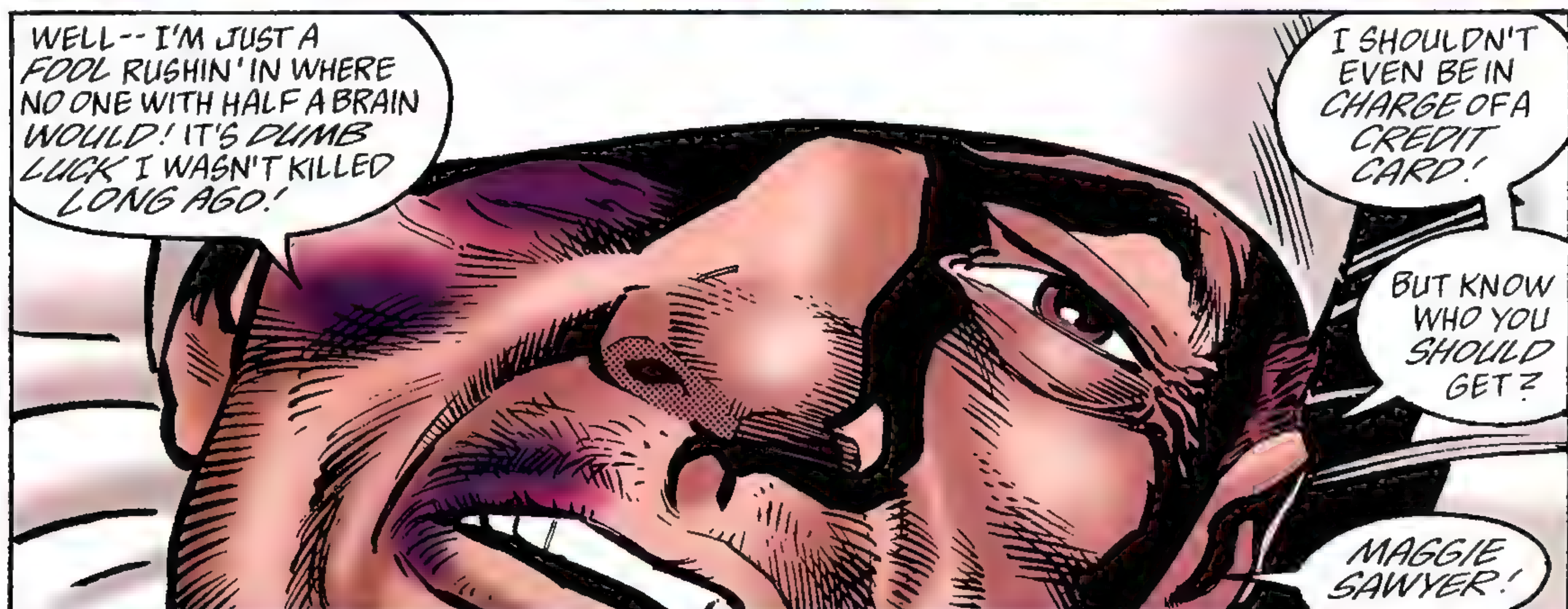
BUT WHAT
ABOUT YOU?
HOW ABOUT
GREG
REAGAN?



I'M AN INVESTIGATOR, DAN--MY EXPERTISE ISN'T WAR-ZONE SITUATIONS.

NOT EXACTLY GREG'S STRONG SUIT...

AND THIS UNIT'S LEADER WOULD HAVE TO DEAL WITH AND WORK WITH VARIOUS SUPER-TYPES.

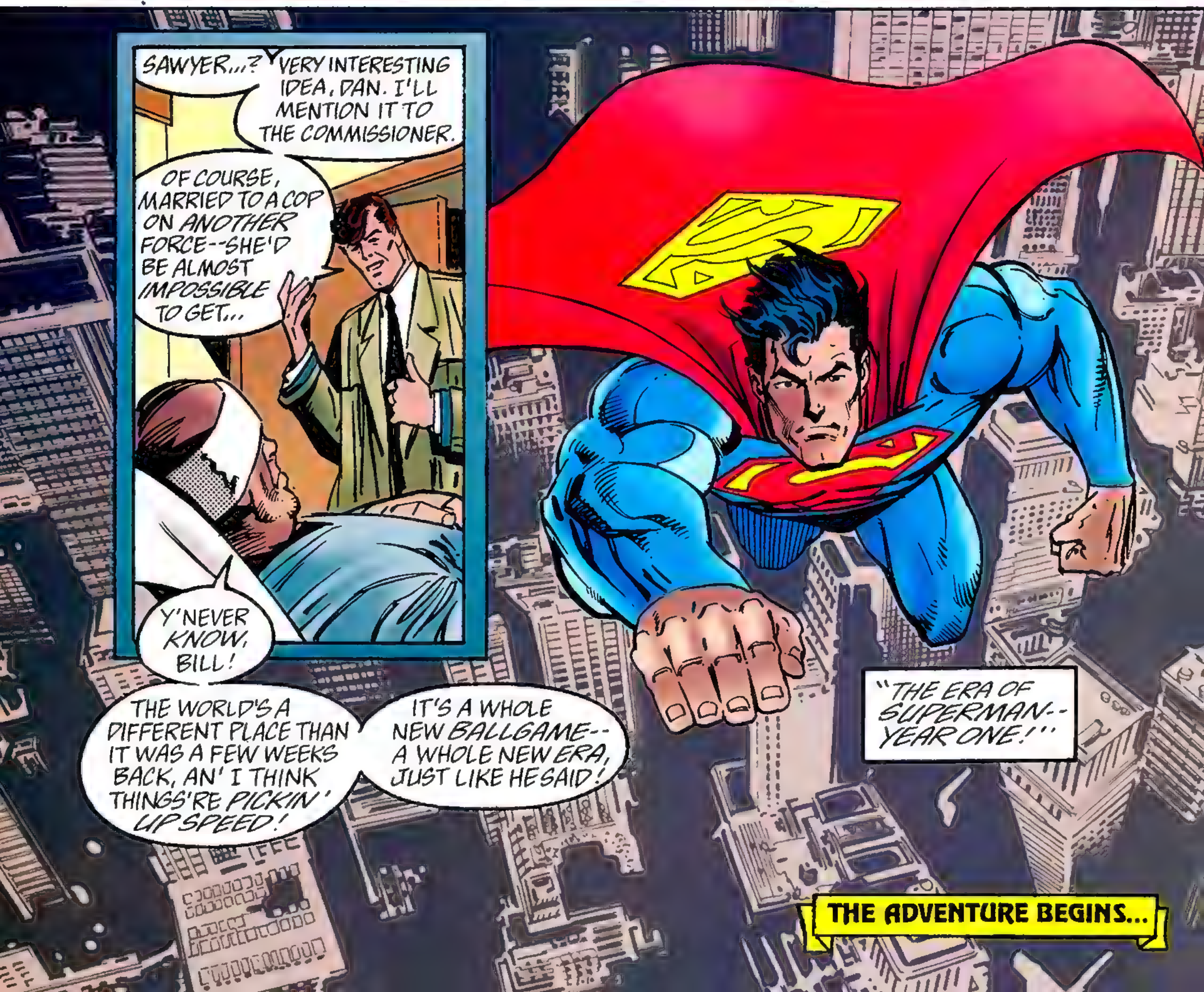


WELL-- I'M JUST A FOOL RUSHIN' IN WHERE NO ONE WITH HALF A BRAIN WOULD! IT'S DUMB LUCK I WASN'T KILLED LONG AGO!

I SHOULDN'T EVEN BE IN CHARGE OF A CREDIT CARD!

BUT KNOW WHO YOU SHOULD GET?

MAGGIE SAWYER!



SAWYER...? VERY INTERESTING IDEA, DAN. I'LL MENTION IT TO THE COMMISSIONER.

OF COURSE, MARRIED TO A COP ON ANOTHER FORCE--SHE'D BE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO GET...

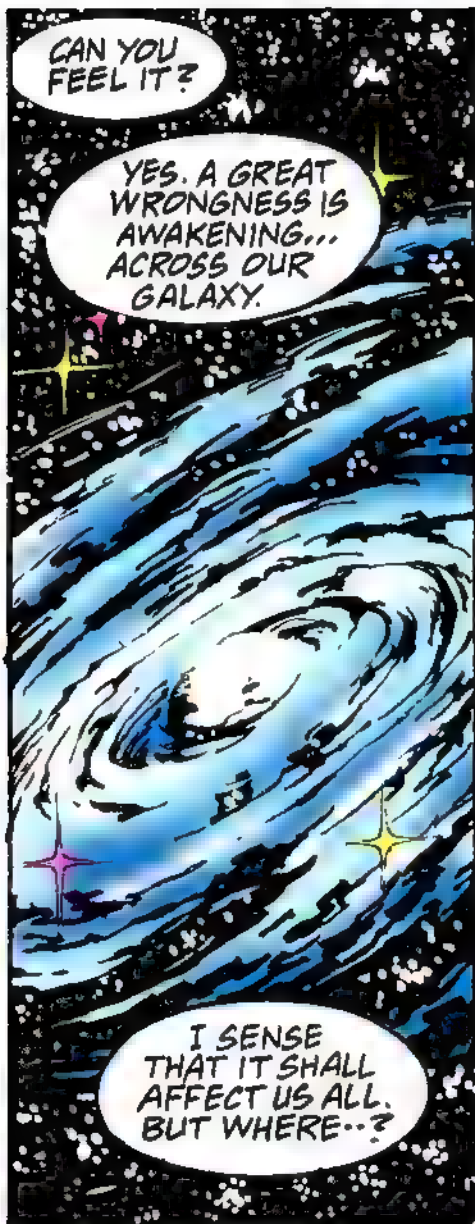
Y'NEVER KNOW, BILL!

THE WORLD'S A DIFFERENT PLACE THAN IT WAS A FEW WEEKS BACK, AN' I THINK THINGS'RE PICKIN' UP SPEED!

IT'S A WHOLE NEW BALLGAME-- A WHOLE NEW ERA, JUST LIKE HE SAID!

"THE ERA OF SUPERMAN-- YEAR ONE!"

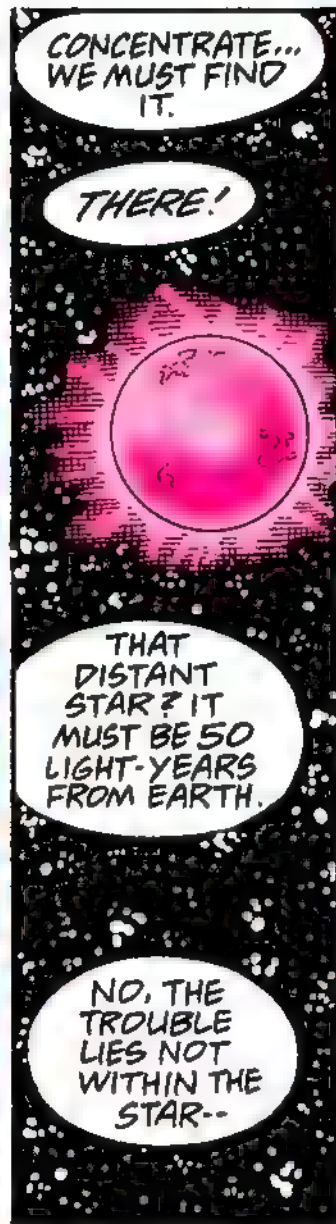
THE ADVENTURE BEGINS...



CAN YOU
FEEL IT?

YES. A GREAT
WRONGNESS IS
AWAKENING...
ACROSS OUR
GALAXY.

I SENSE
THAT IT SHALL
AFFECT US ALL.
BUT WHERE...?

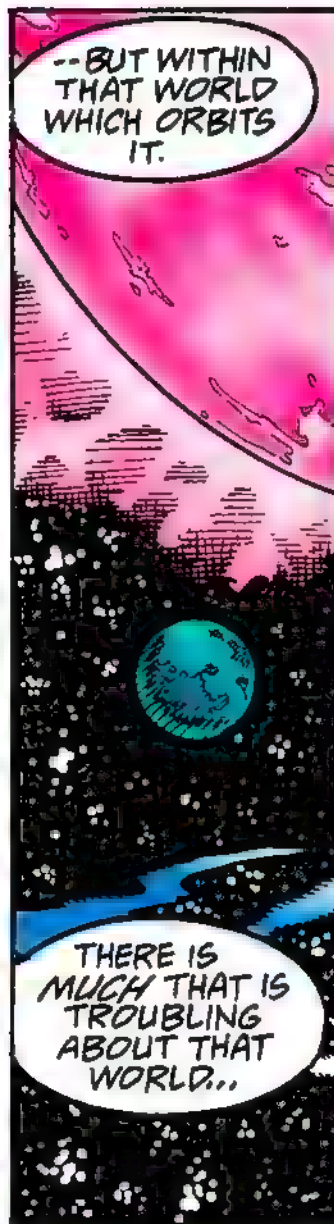


CONCENTRATE...
WE MUST FIND
IT.

THERE!

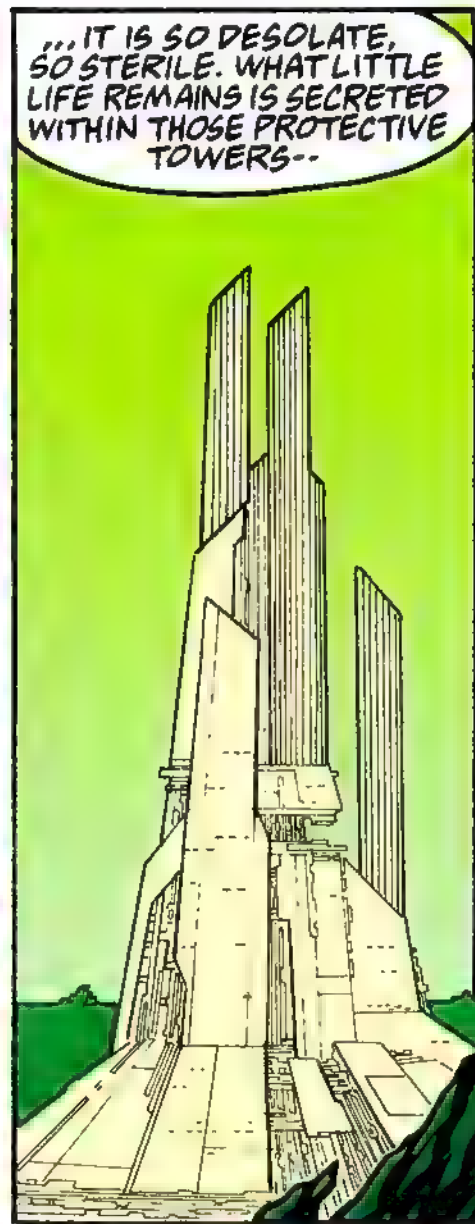
THAT
DISTANT
STAR? IT
MUST BE 50
LIGHT-YEARS
FROM EARTH.

NO, THE
TROUBLE
LIES NOT
WITHIN THE
STAR--

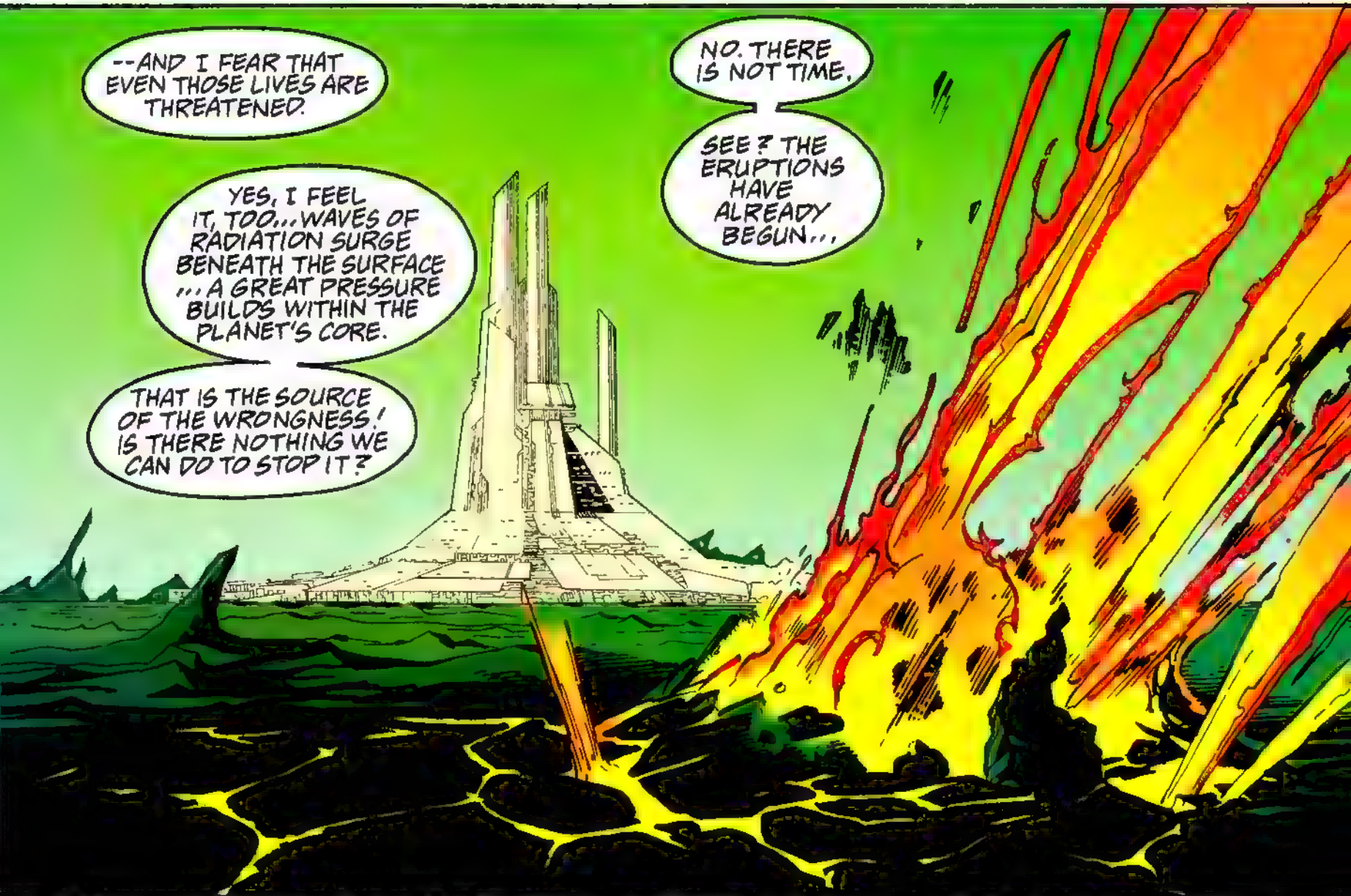


--BUT WITHIN
THAT WORLD
WHICH ORBITS
IT.

THERE IS
MUCH THAT IS
TROUBLING
ABOUT THAT
WORLD..



...IT IS SO DESOLATE,
SO STERILE. WHAT LITTLE
LIFE REMAINS IS SECRETED
WITHIN THOSE PROTECTIVE
TOWERS--



--AND I FEAR THAT
EVEN THOSE LIVES ARE
THREATENED.

YES, I FEEL
IT, TOO... WAVES OF
RADIATION SURGE
BENEATH THE SURFACE
... A GREAT PRESSURE
BUILDS WITHIN THE
PLANET'S CORE.

THAT IS THE SOURCE
OF THE WRONGNESS!
IS THERE NOTHING WE
CAN DO TO STOP IT?

NO. THERE
IS NOT TIME.

SEE? THE
ERUPTIONS
HAVE
ALREADY
BEGUN...

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...THE PLANET
KRYPTON IS DOOMED!
IN MERE MOMENTS, IT
WILL BE NO MORE.

AND WE SEVEN
ARE THE ONLY ONES
ON EARTH WHO WILL
EVEN KNOW IT ONCE
EXISTED.

FOR NOW, YES.
BUT THE LIGHT FROM
KRYPTON WILL REACH
OUR WORLD IN HALF
A CENTURY--

-- IF HUMANITY'S
MASTERY OF ASTRONOMY
HAS ADVANCED ENOUGH
BY THAT TIME, PERHAPS
EARTH'S SCIENTISTS WILL
THEN LOOK INTO THE
HEAVENS AND SEE WHAT
OUR POWER NOW
REVEALS.

BROTHERS
AND SISTERS, WE
WITNESS THE DEATH
OF A WORLD--THE
EXTINCTION OF
A RACE!



INDEED.

BUT
KRYPTON'S
DYING ARE BEYOND HOPE,
AND THE LOSS OF
ONE PLANET
MEANS LITTLE TO
THE ETERNAL
BALANCE.



TOO TRUE, YET,
THE OMENS WHICH
LED US TO
DISCOVER YON
ALIEN PLANET
INDICATED THAT
ITS FATE HELD
CONSEQUENCES
FOR OUR WORLD,
AS WELL AS FOR
OTHERS.



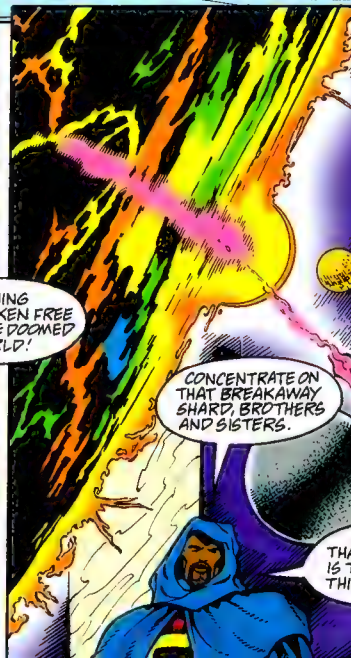
THIS
IS MOST
PERPLEXING.



YES, IT SEEMS
IMPROBABLE THAT
THE DESTRUCTION
OF SO DISTANT A
SPHERE COULD
SERIOUSLY AFFECT
THE EARTH.



HOLD!
LOOK
THERE!



SOMETHING
HAS BROKEN FREE
FROM THE DOOMED
WORLD!

CONCENTRATE ON
THAT BREAKAWAY
SHARD, BROTHERS
AND SISTERS.

I SENSE
THAT THEREIN
IS THE KEY TO
THIS MYSTERY!



IT IS A SHIP! BUT SO SMALL--!

IT NEED BE NO LARGER. OBSERVE...

...THE CARGO WITHIN!

GUTH PRESERVE US, A FETAL KRYPTONIAN.

YES. MALE, I BELIEVE... THE SOLE SURVIVOR OF HIS PEOPLE.

BY THE VOID! WHAT--?!

THE ENSORCELED IMAGE DISPERSES OF ITS OWN ACCORD! WE CANNOT HOLD IT!

BY WHAT POWER IS THIS POSSIBLE?

BY THE POWER OF KRYPTON'S TECHNOLOGY. THE TINY SHIP'S ENGINES SURPASSED THE SPEED OF LIGHT, REMOVING IT FROM NORMAL SPACE.

NOT EVEN THE SPELLS WHICH ALLOWED US TO OBSERVE KRYPTON CAN TRACK SO TINY AN OBJECT MOVING FASTER THAN LIGHT THROUGH HYPERSPACE. THIS IS A SITUATION OF DIRE PORTENT.

HOW SO, BROTHER? IT SEEMS INCONCEIVABLE THAT SO HELPLESS A CREATURE COULD POSE A THREAT--!

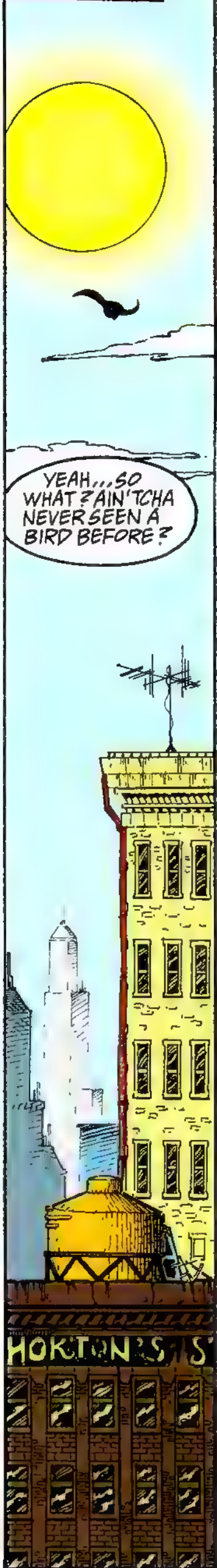
WE SEVEN WERE EACH ONCE AS HELPLESS.

BY THE SIGNS I READ, THE FETUS WILL DEVELOP SLOWLY DURING ITS HYPERSPACE JOURNEY. THE SHIP SHALL REACH OUR WORLD IN TWO DECADES, PERHAPS LESS.

IF KRYPTON'S LAST SON IS THEN BORN UPON THE EARTH... WHO IS TO SAY WHAT POWERS MAY BE HIS? I FEAR HIS DESTINY IS ALREADY BEYOND OURS TO CONTROL.

WE MUST PREPARE, MY FRIENDS. WE MUST BE READY...

METROPOLIS. FORTY YEARS LATER...



SUPERMAN -YEAR ONE

G\$H\$!! I WINGED
'IM--TWICE! AN' IT
DIDN'T EVEN SLOW
'IM DOWN!

THAT AIN'T
POSSIBLE! YOU
MUST'VE MISSED!

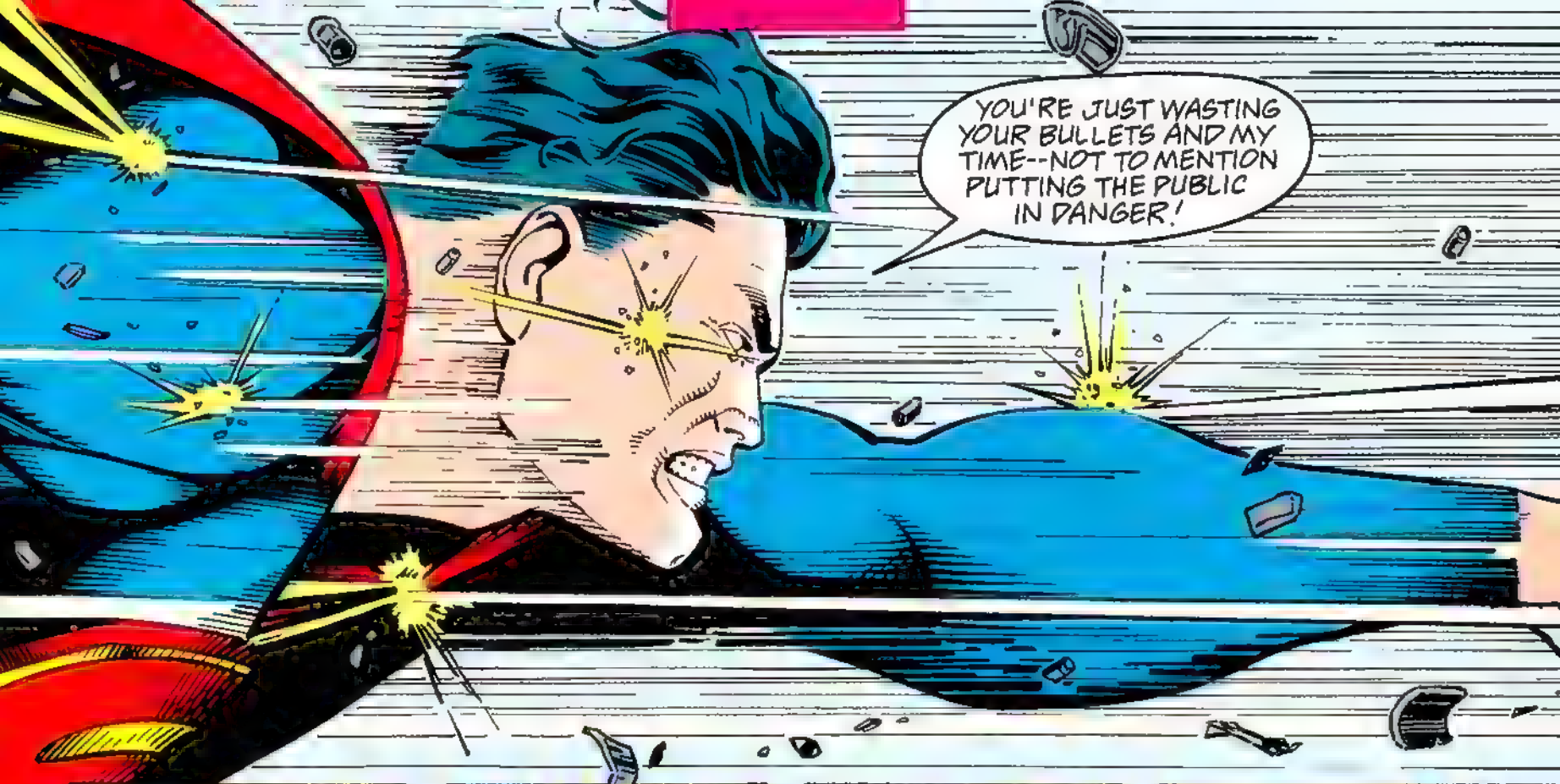
KEEP
SHOOTIN'--
BOTH OF
YA!

BRANDED
THE
MOP
TO
OWN

STRANGE VISITOR

ROGER STERN - WRITER * CHRIS GOSSETT - PENCILLER
PASCOE TWOCH - INKERS * TOM ZIUKO - COLORIST
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SUPERMAN
Created by
JERRY SIEGEL
& JOE SHUSTER



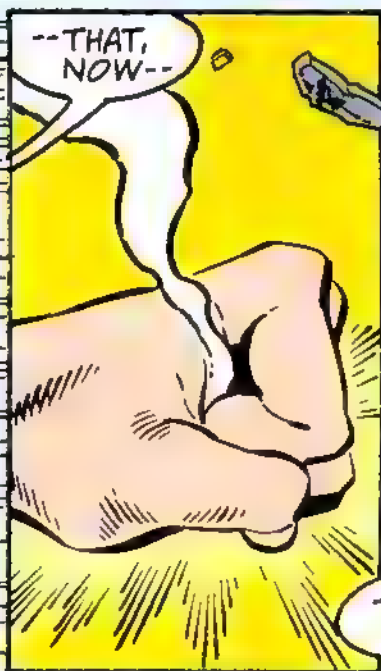
YOU'RE JUST WASTING
YOUR BULLETS AND MY
TIME--NOT TO MENTION
PUTTING THE PUBLIC
IN DANGER!



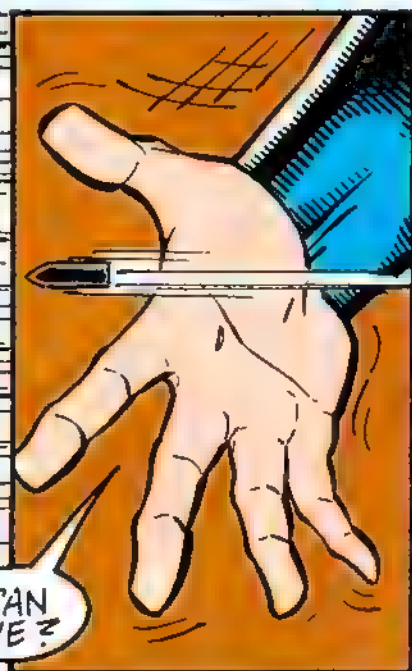
AND
WE--



--CAN'T
HAVE--



--THAT,
NOW--



--CAN
WE?



EYAAHH!

NO!

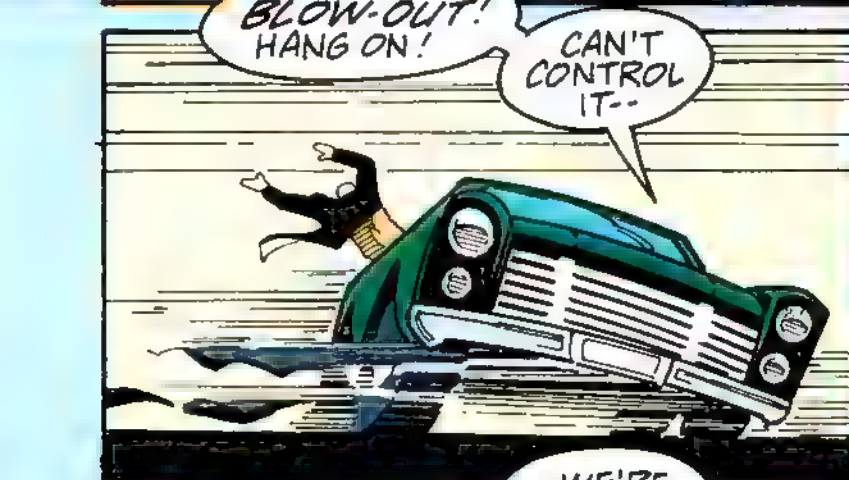
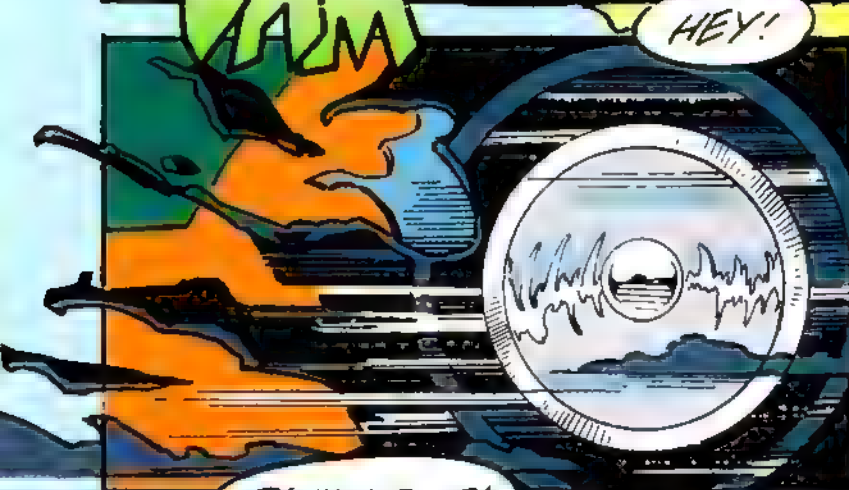
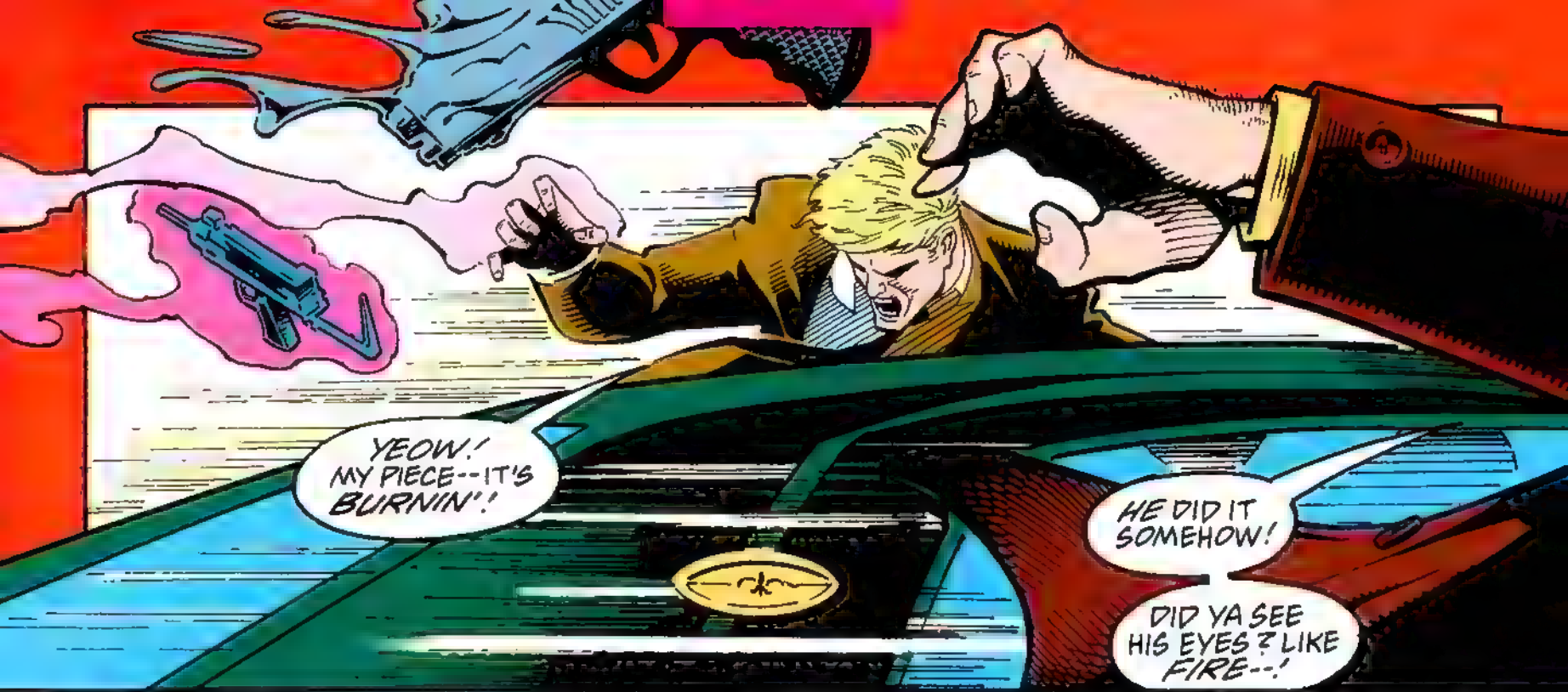


I LET
ONE GET
BY ME!

QUIT
SHOWING
OFF, KENT--

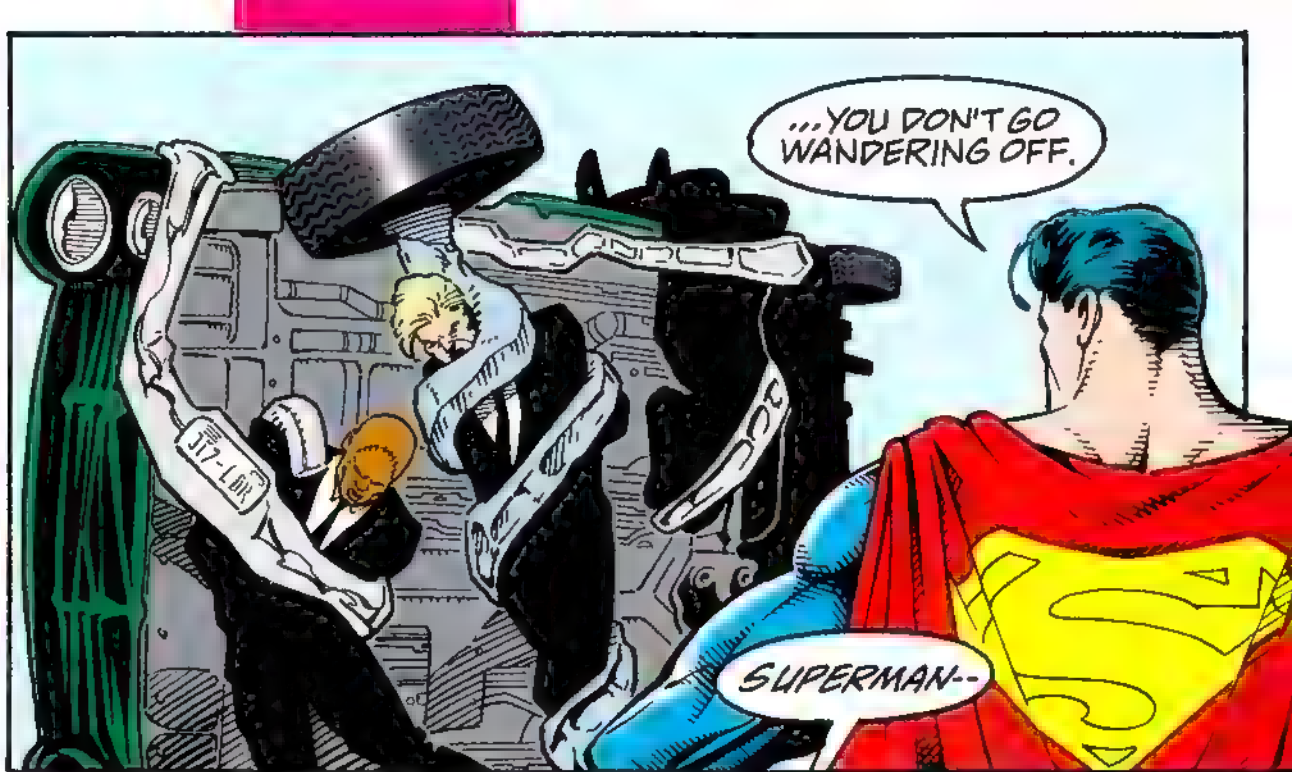


--WRAP THIS
UP NOW!



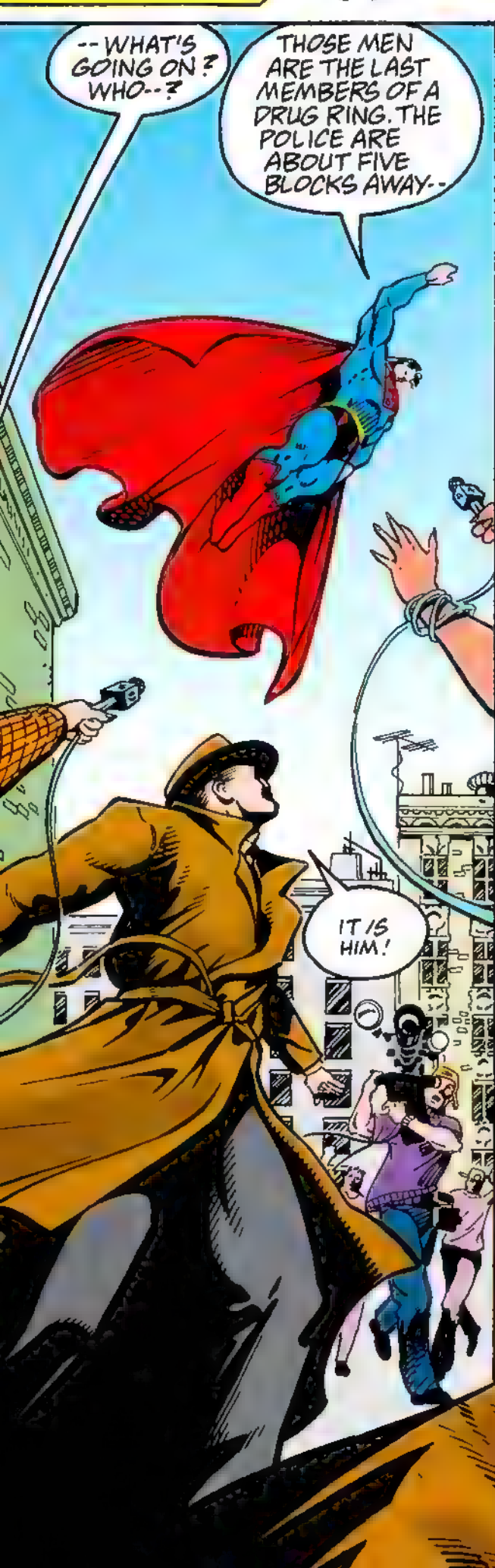


NOW,
LET'S
MAKE
SURE...



...YOU DON'T GO
WANDERING OFF.

SUPERMAN--



-- WHAT'S
GOING ON?
WHO--?

THOSE MEN
ARE THE LAST
MEMBERS OF A
DRUG RING. THE
POLICE ARE
ABOUT FIVE
BLOCKS AWAY--

IT IS
HIM!



-- WHEN THEY ARRIVE, TELL THEM
THAT ALL THE EVIDENCE THEY NEED
IS IN THE CAR'S TRUNK!

SUPERMAN--
WAIT! WE NEED
TO TALK--!

With his hearing,
he had to have
heard me.

Probably thought I was just
another shmoe with a get-rich-
quick scheme, someone who
wanted a piece of him.



I must get to him
before it's too late.
But if I'm going to
do that--

--first I'll have to chase him to the ground.

SLOPPY, CLARK, VERY SLOPPY! I MUST BE MORE CAREFUL... IT'S A BIG RESPONSIBILITY, BEING A PUBLIC SUPERMAN.

YEAH, BUT IT'S ALSO A GREAT KICK! AFTER ALL THOSE YEARS OF OPERATING IN SECRET--

--IT'S SO LIBERATING TO PUT ON THIS CAPE AND FLY FREE--RIGHT OUT IN THE OPEN! THIS DOUBLE IDENTITY WAS THE BEST IDEA PA EVER HAD!

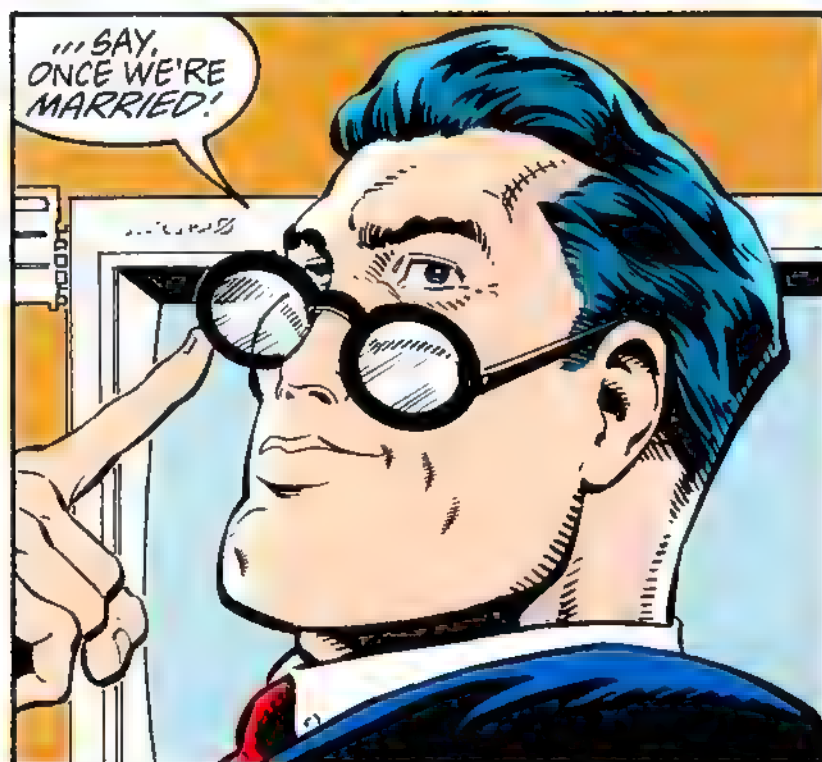
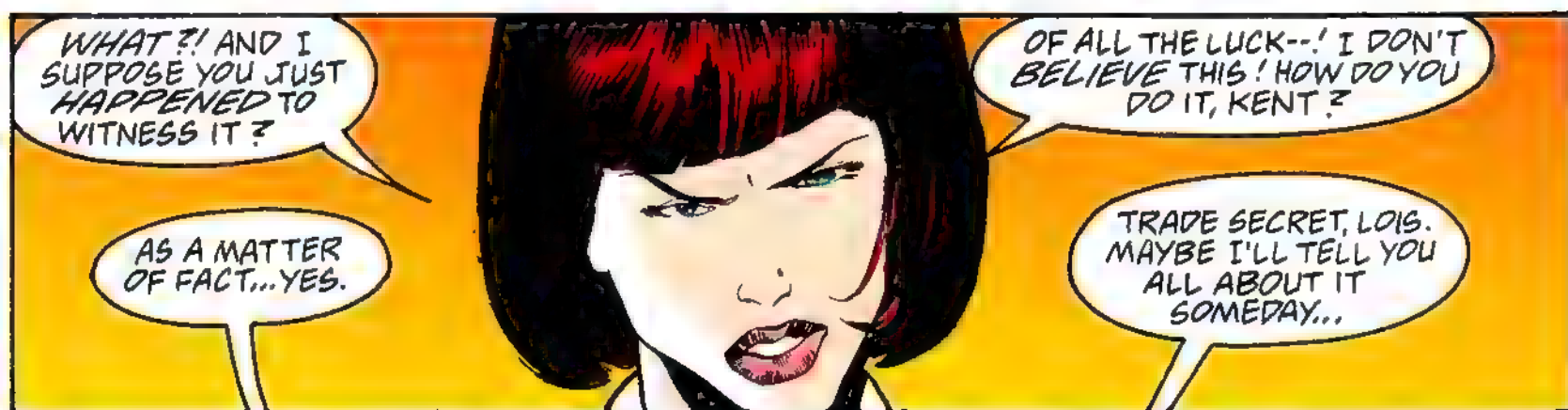
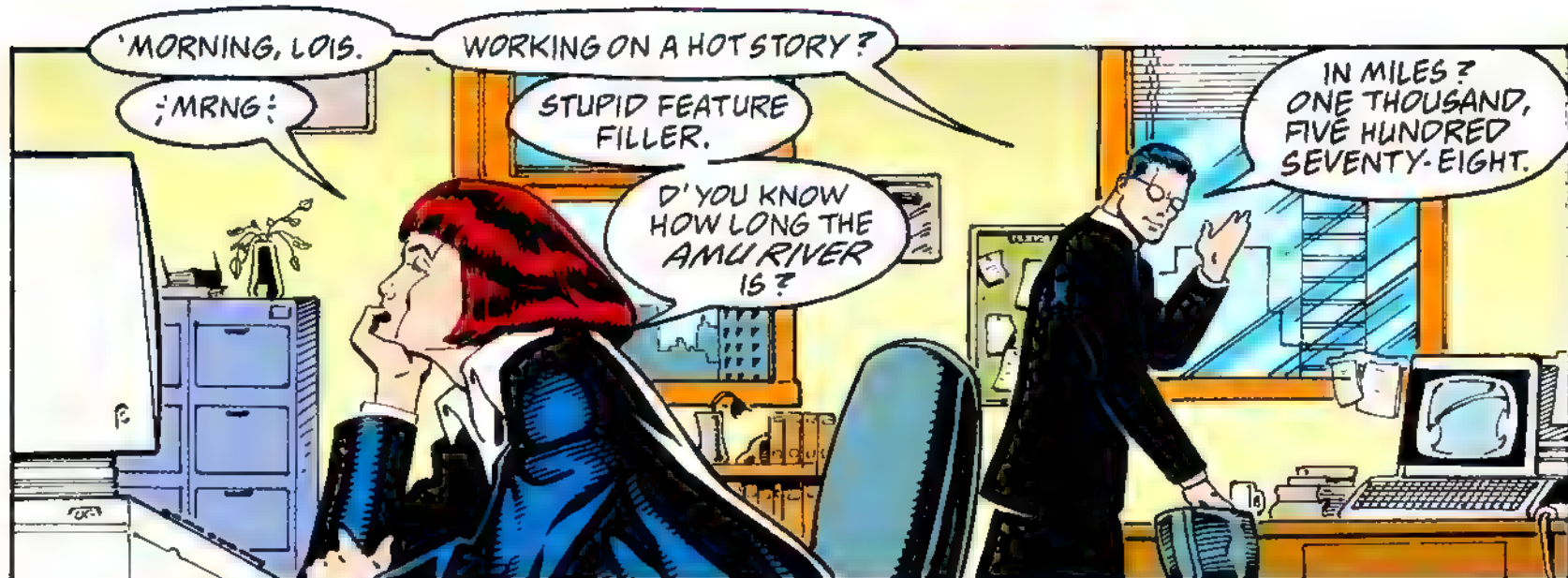
STILL, THERE'S A TIME TO FLY...

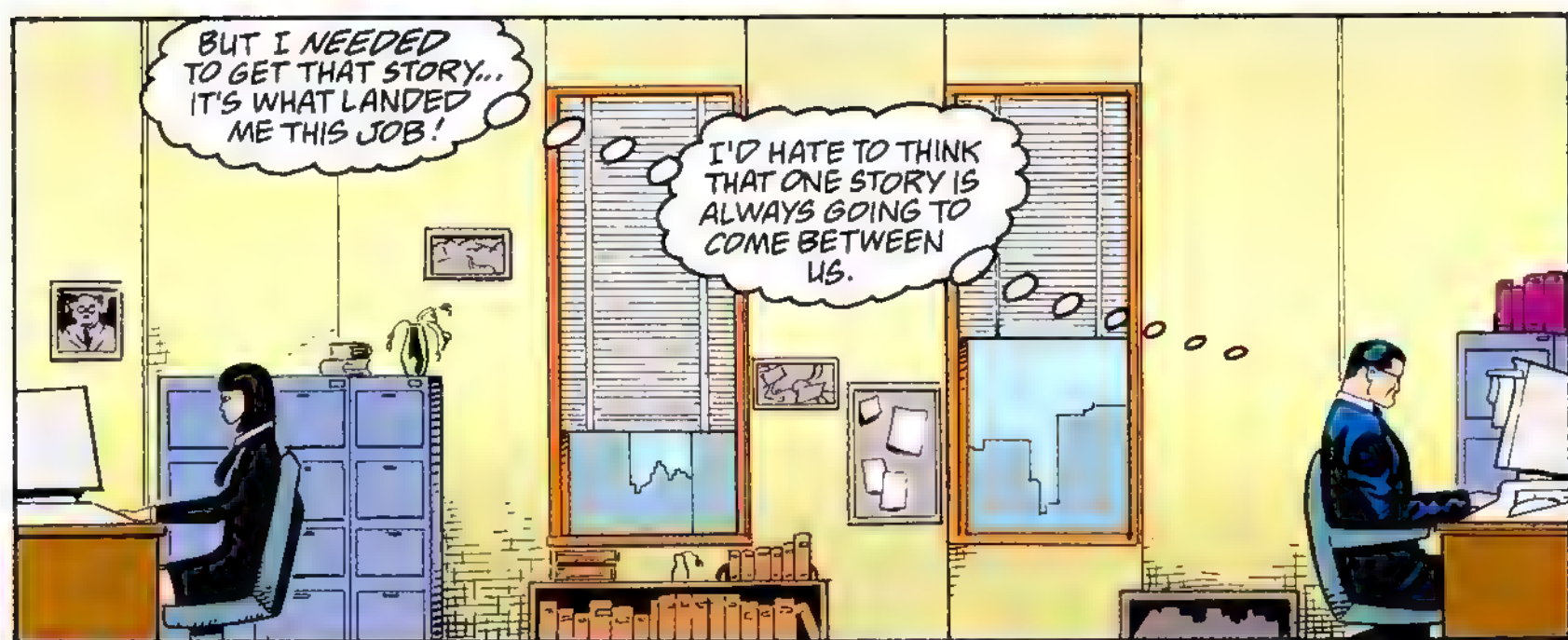
...AND A TIME TO TUCK THE COSTUME AWAY. SUPERMAN NEEDS NO VISIBLE MEANS OF SUPPORT, BUT CLARK KENT STILL HAS TO EARN HIS KEEP.

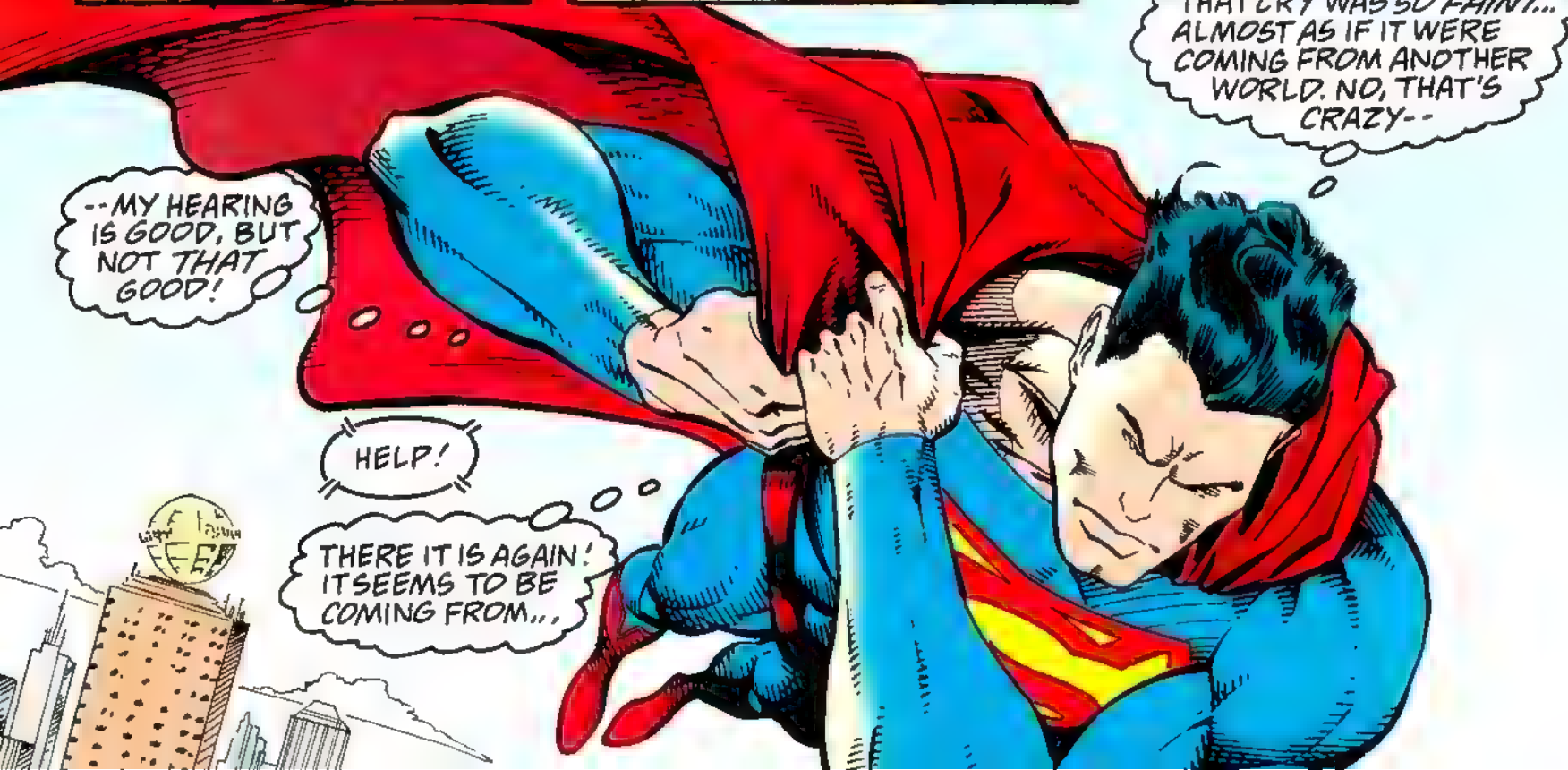
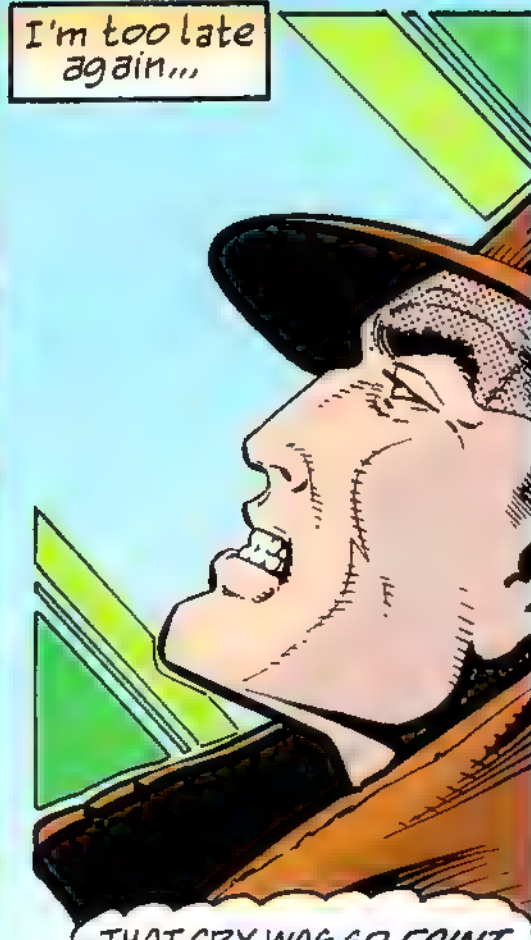
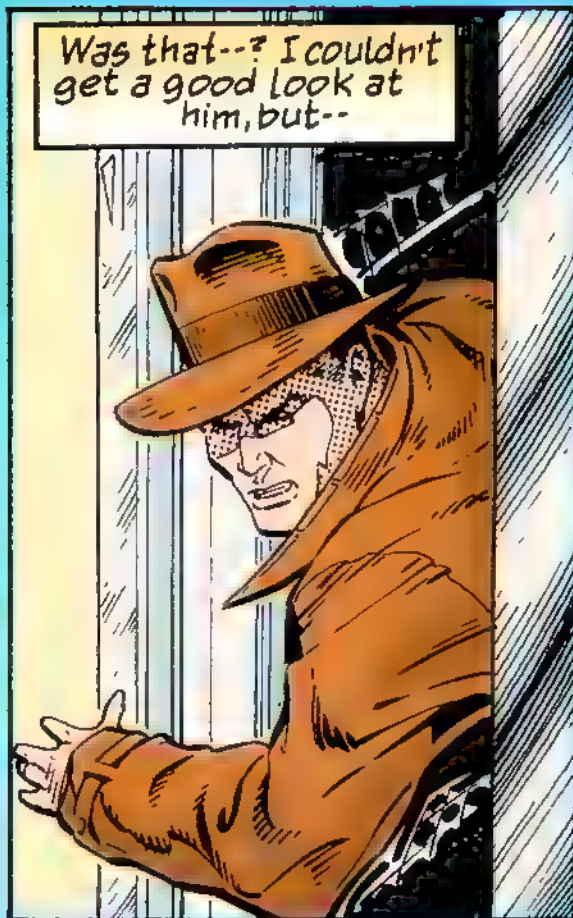
AND PERRY WHITE WON'T BE TOO HAPPY IF HIS NEWEST REPORTER FAILS TO TURN IN A STORY NOW AND THEN.

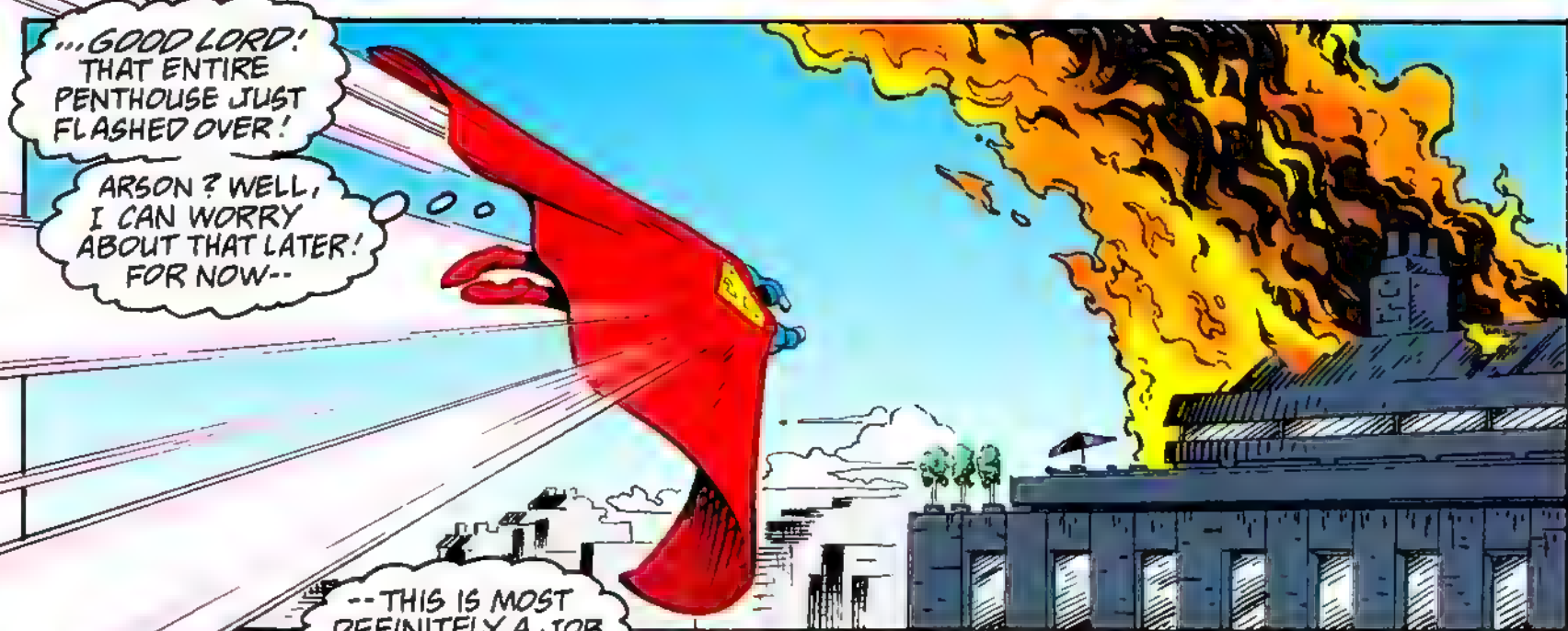
DAILY CITY

PL
ROO

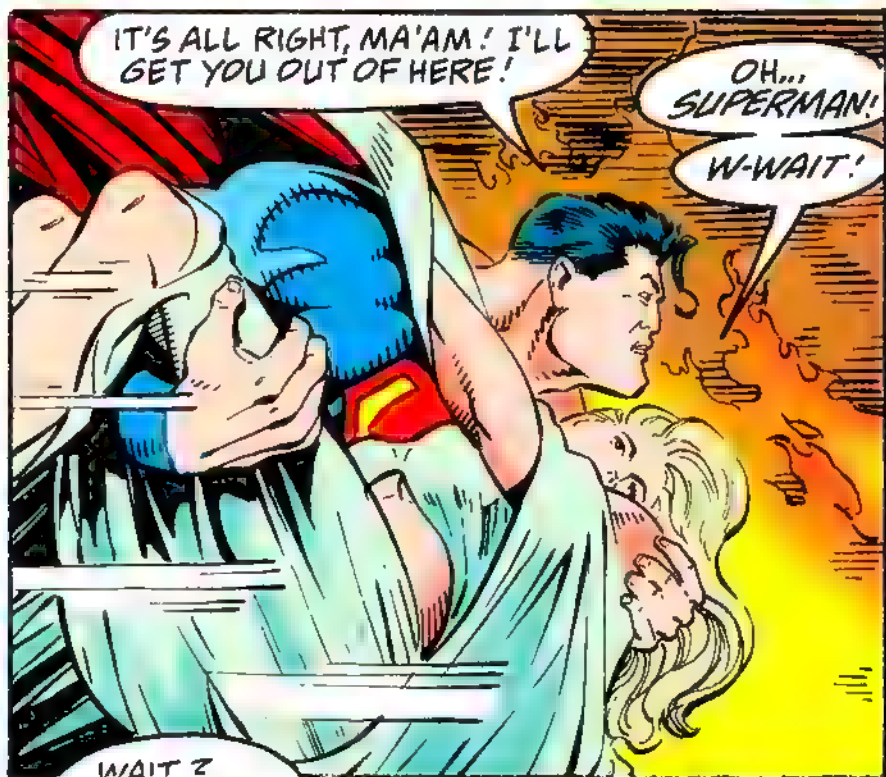








--THIS IS MOST DEFINITELY A JOB FOR SUPERMAN!



STOP..



--DON'T GO ANY FURTHER!

THAT'S NO LADY YOU'RE HOLDING, SUPERMAN! BELIEVE ME, SHE'S BAD NEWS...

...ONE KISS, AND YOU'RE AS GOOD AS DEAD!

OH! SUPERMAN, DON'T LET THAT AWFUL MAN NEAR ME!



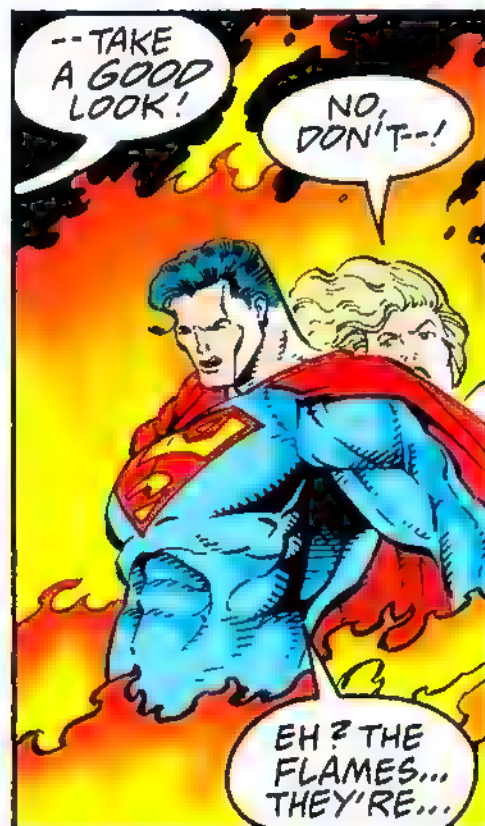
PLEASE! HE WANTS TO KILL ME!

LOOK, I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT... BUT WE CAN'T STAY HERE! IT'S DANGEROUS FOR BOTH OF YOU--!



DANGEROUS? YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT DANGER IS, JUNIOR.

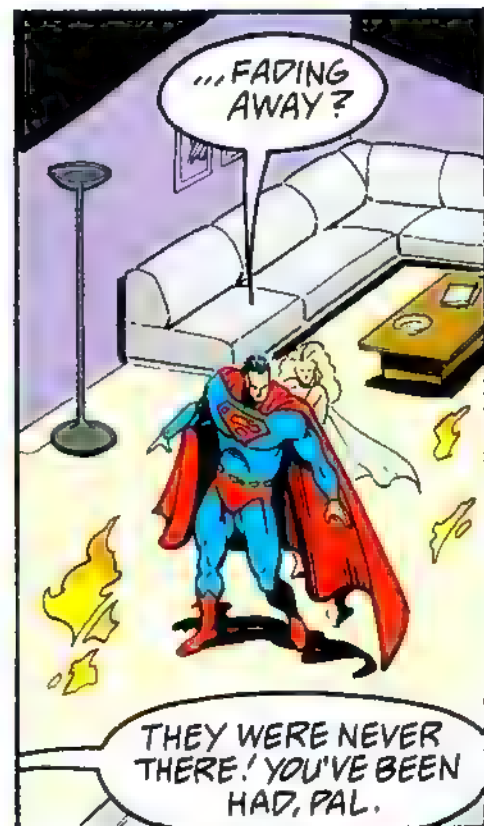
WISE UP! THAT DAME'S GOT YOU SEEING THINGS... THIS ISN'T A REAL FIRE! JUST TAKE A LOOK AROUND YOU--



--TAKE A GOOD LOOK!

NO, DON'T--!

EH? THE FLAMES... THEY'RE...



...FADING AWAY?

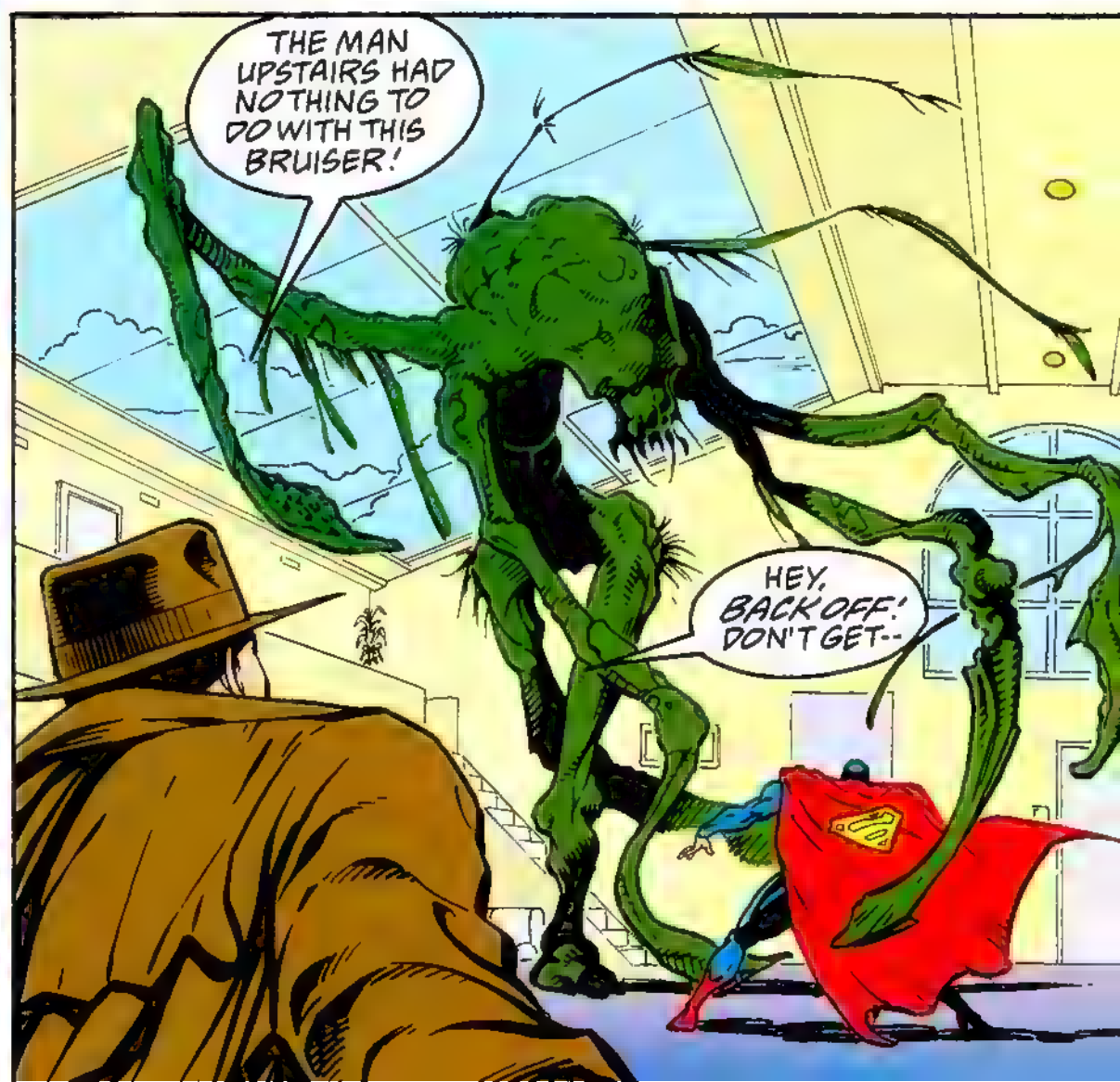
THEY WERE NEVER THERE! YOU'VE BEEN HAD, PAL.

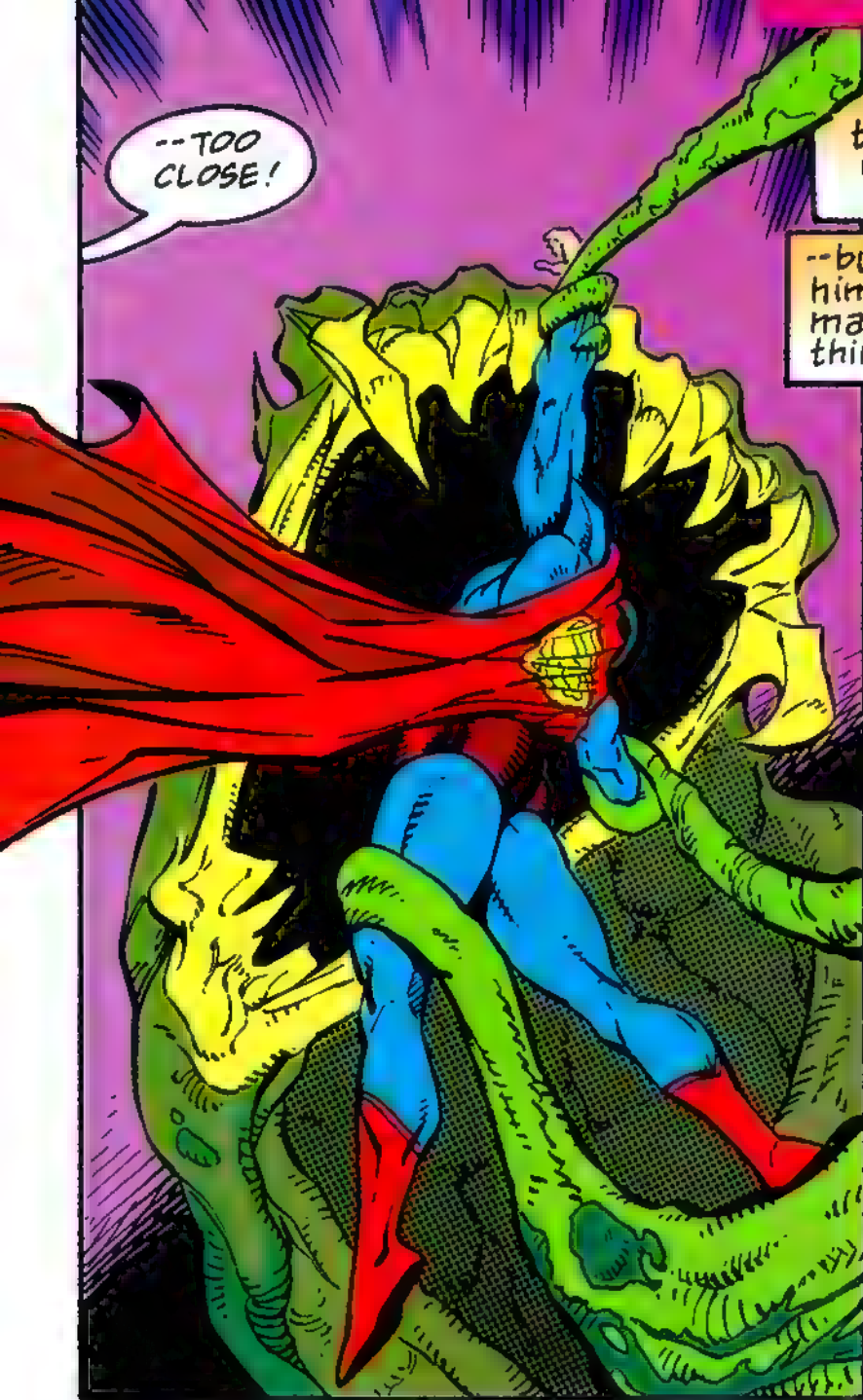


DON'T LISTEN TO HIM-- HE WANTS TO KILL ME, I TELL YOU! IF THERE'S ANY TRICKERY, IT'S HIS DOING!

AT THIS POINT, SHE'LL SAY ANYTHING... ALL LIES.

HOW... HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT? SHE'S...





--TOO CLOSE!

I don't believe it. Just this morning, I saw him move faster than a speeding bullet--

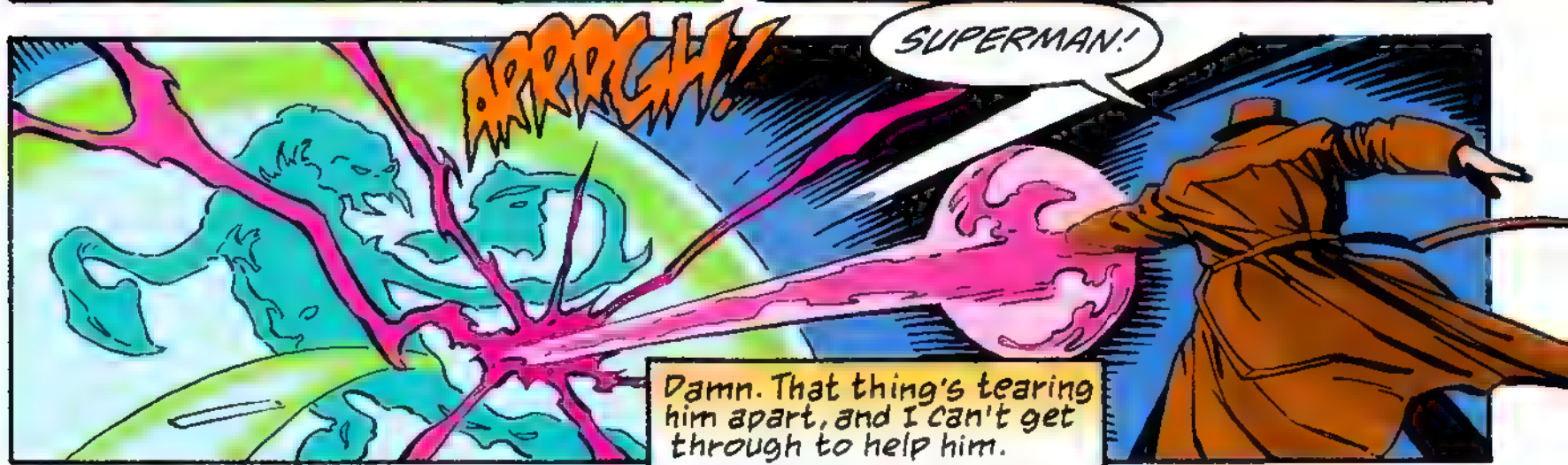
--but that daemon still caught him flatfooted. What's the matter with him? Does that thing still have him under its...



...spell?

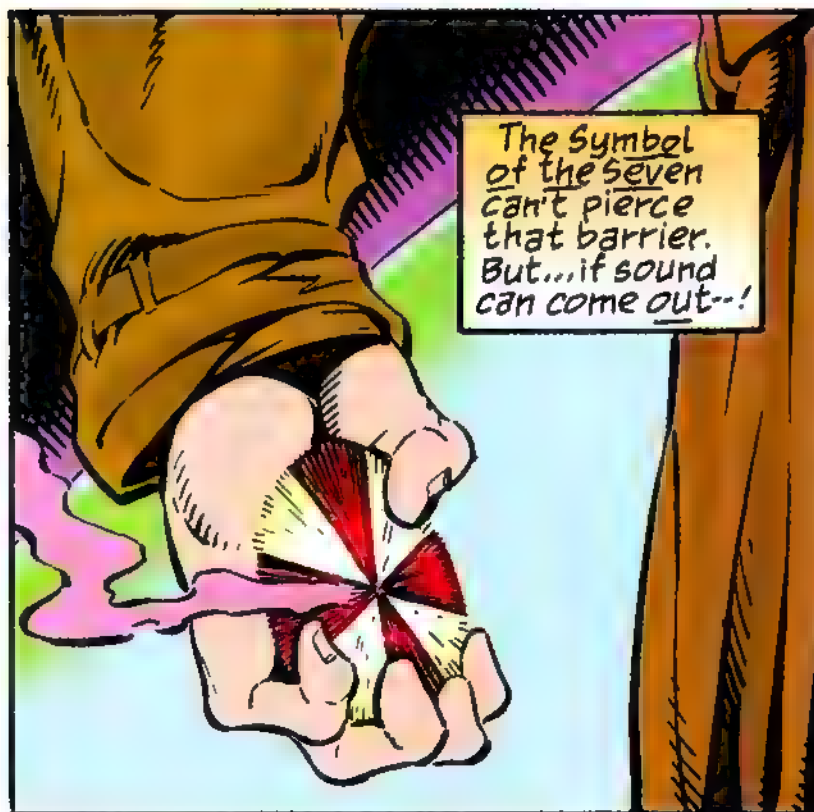


Talk about flatfooted... I walked right into that one.



SUPERMAN!

Damn. That thing's tearing him apart, and I can't get through to help him.

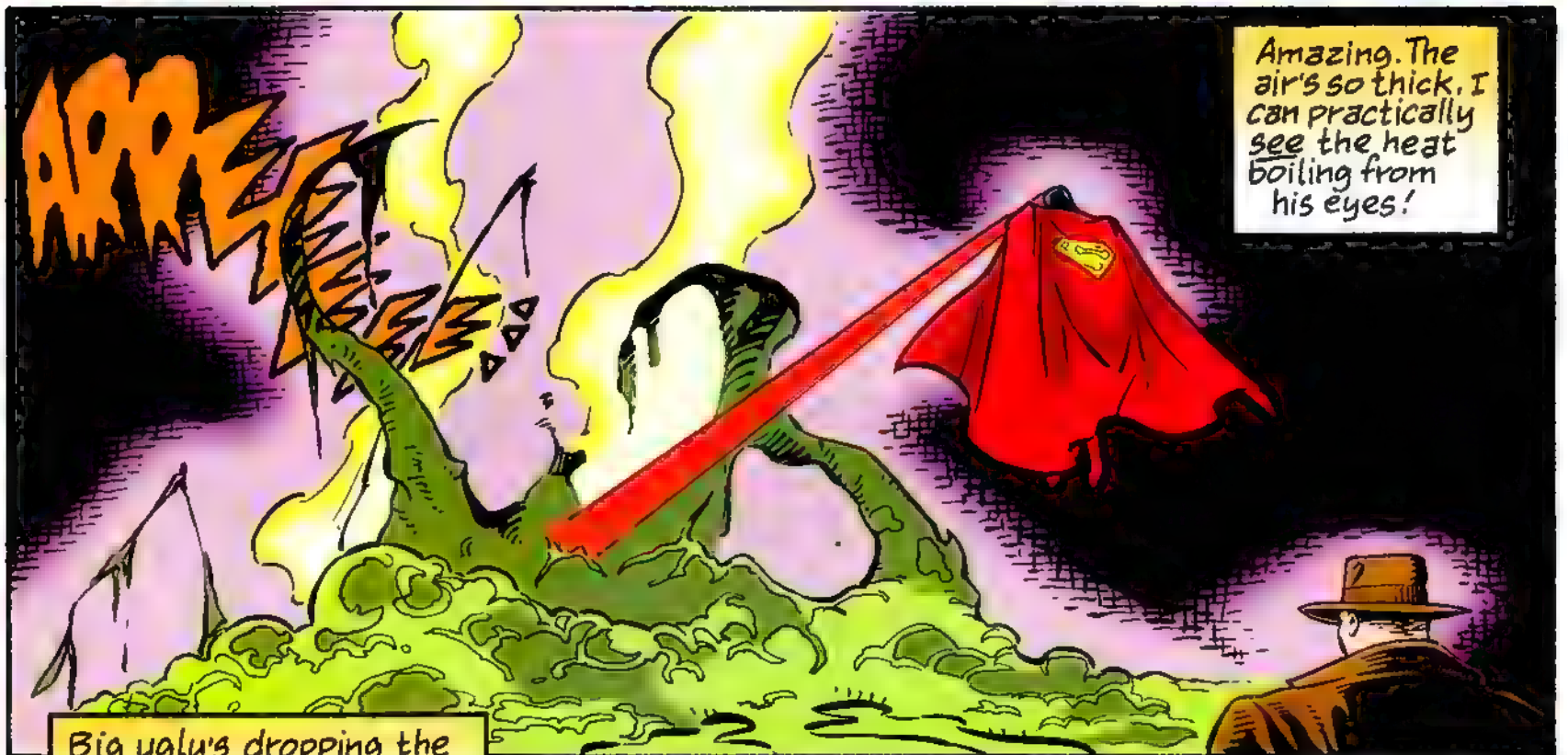
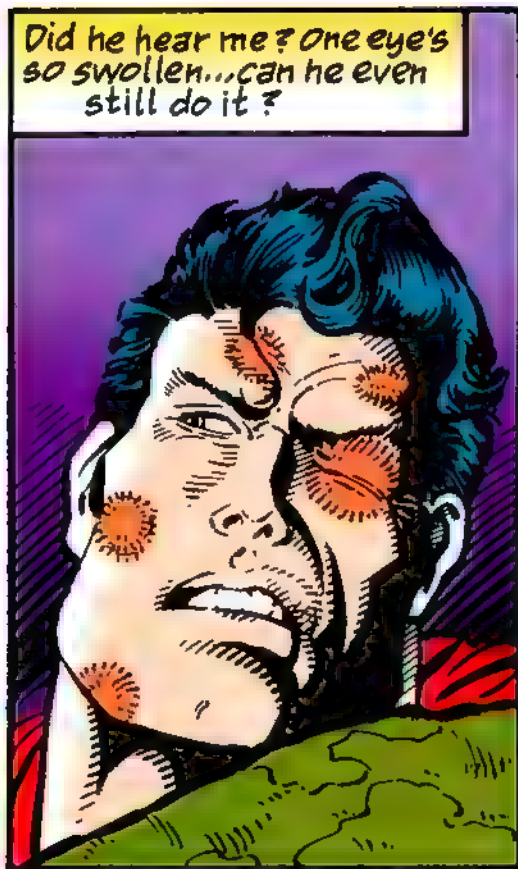


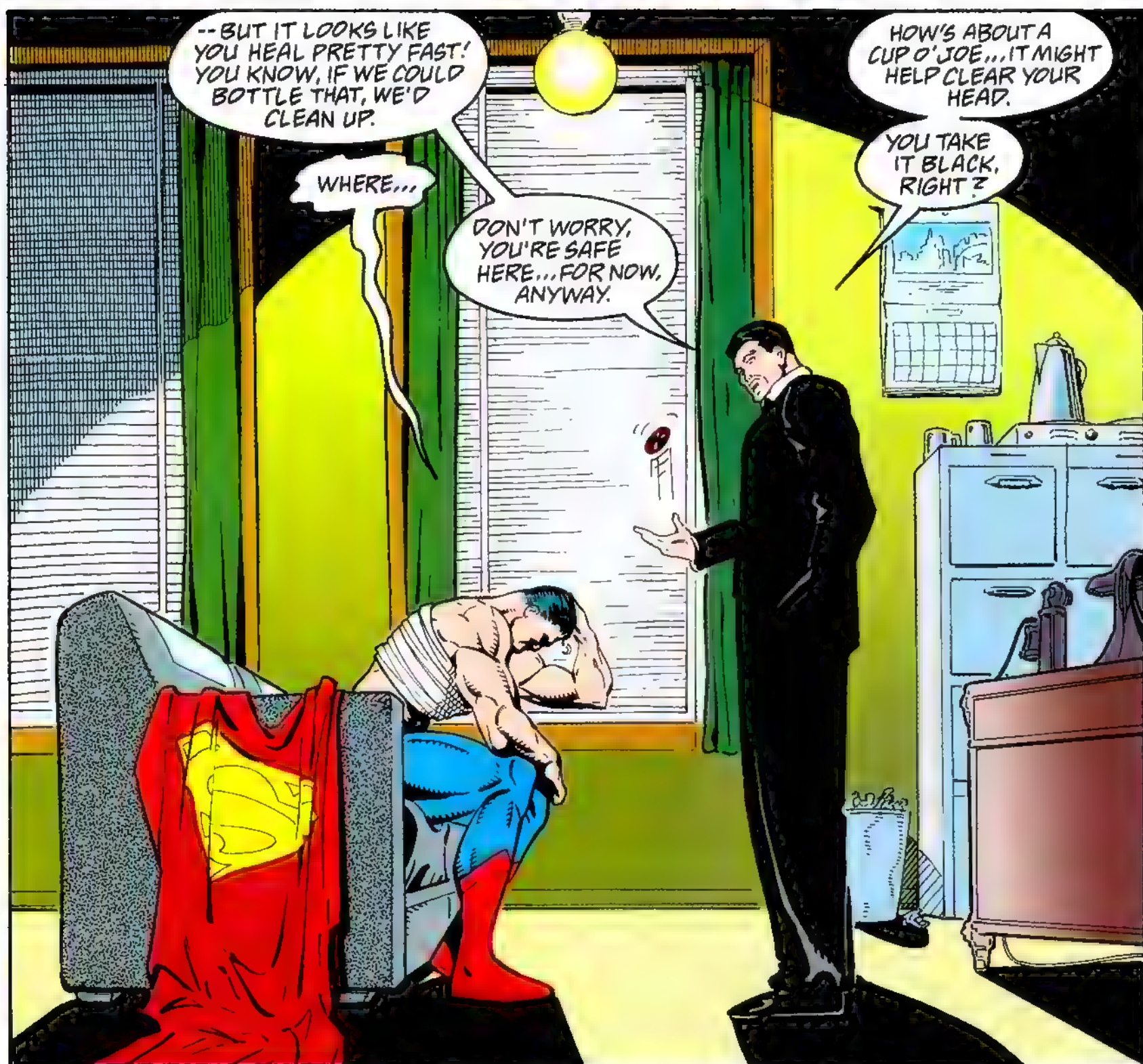
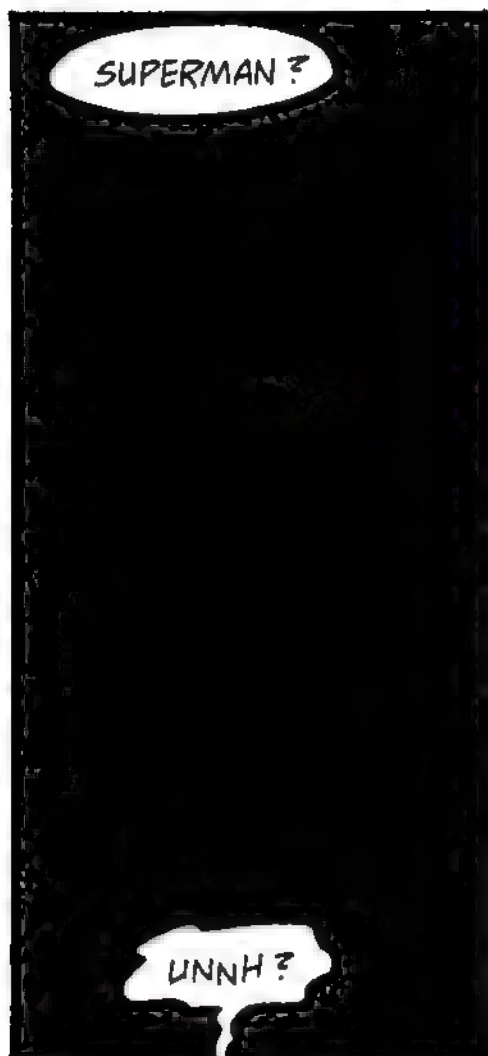
The symbol of the seven can't pierce that barrier. But...if sound can come out--!

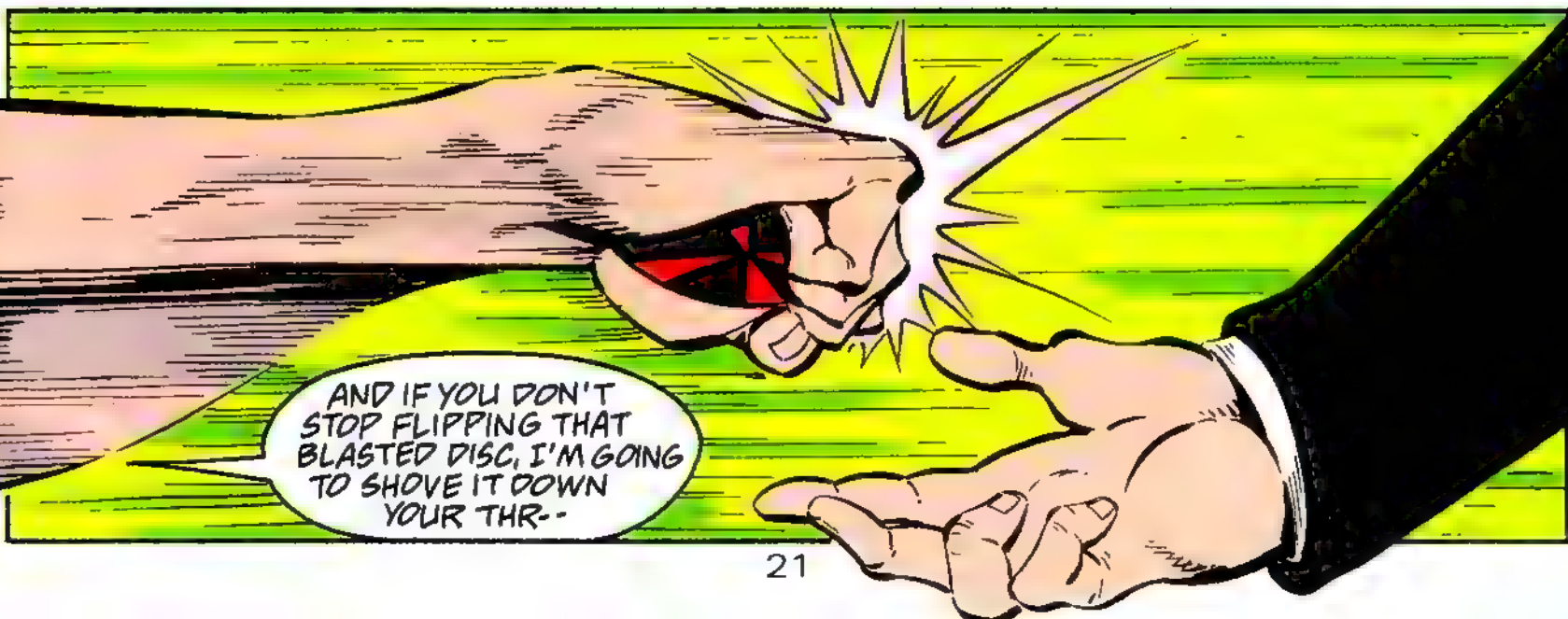
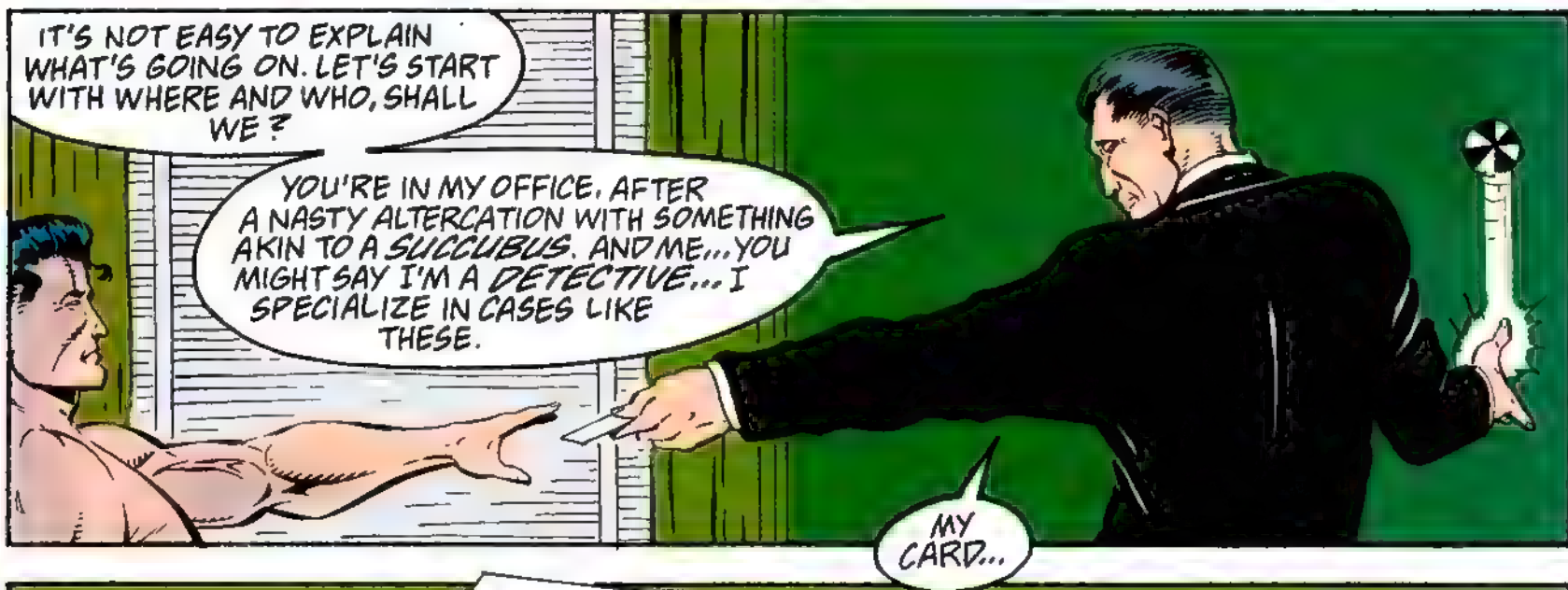
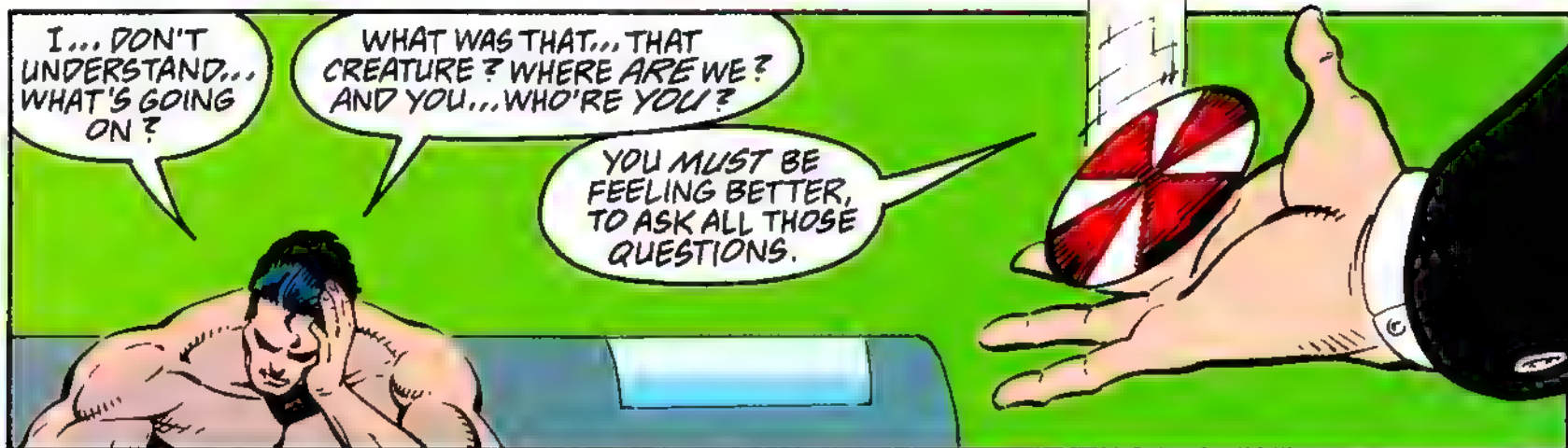


LISTEN TO ME, SUPERMAN, YOU HAVE TO FIGHT BACK! YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN BEAT THAT THING--

--IT'S ALL UP TO YOU! USE THOSE PEEPERS OF YOURS!









SORRY ABOUT THAT, BUT THE SYMBOL OF THE SEVEN IS A ONE-OF-A-KIND ITEM.

IT SHOULDN'T BE HANDLED BY JUST ANYBODY.

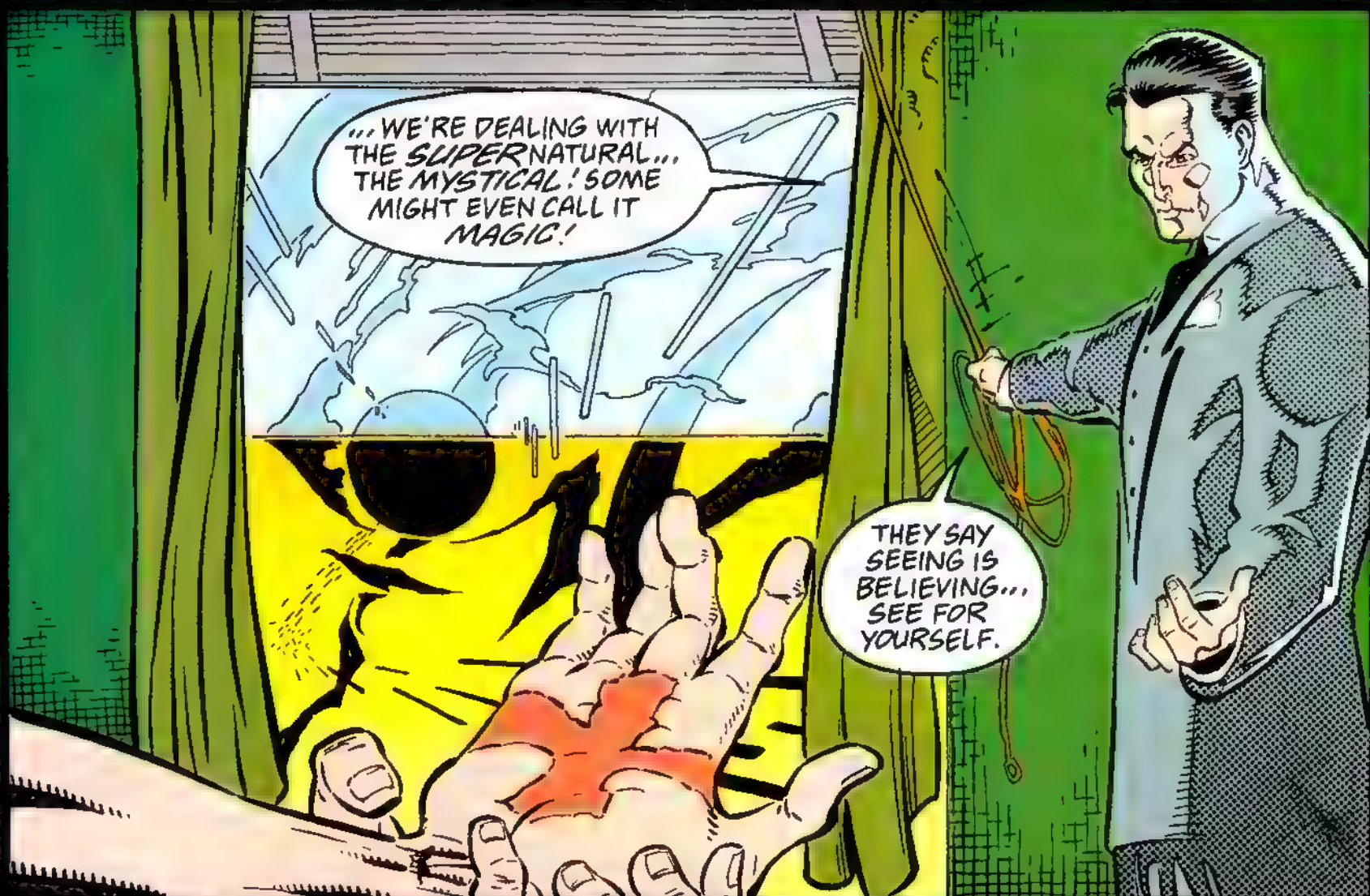


IT... BURNED ME!

I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT. FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN YOU SHOULD HEAL JUST FINE... I DOUBT IT'LL LEAVE A LASTING SCAR.

NOTHING'S EVER BURNED ME BEFORE. I'M INVULNERABLE--!

TO NATURAL FORCES, MAYBE. BUT WE'RE NOT PLAYING WITH THE NATURAL HERE...



...WE'RE DEALING WITH THE SUPERNATURAL... THE MYSTICAL! SOME MIGHT EVEN CALL IT MAGIC!

THEY SAY SEEING IS BELIEVING... SEE FOR YOURSELF.



I-I DON'T BELIEVE IT... I CAN'T! SURELY, THIS HAS TO BE AN ILLUSION--?

YOU'RE THE ONE WITH THE SUPER-VISION... YOU TELL ME!

GO AHEAD, SCOPE THINGS OUT!

IT IS REAL?

INCREDIBLE. YOUR OFFICE BORDERS ON SOME SORT OF... DIFFERENT DIMENSION... LIKE ANOTHER PLANE OF REALITY... OR SURREALITY?

YOU'RE LEARNING, KENT.

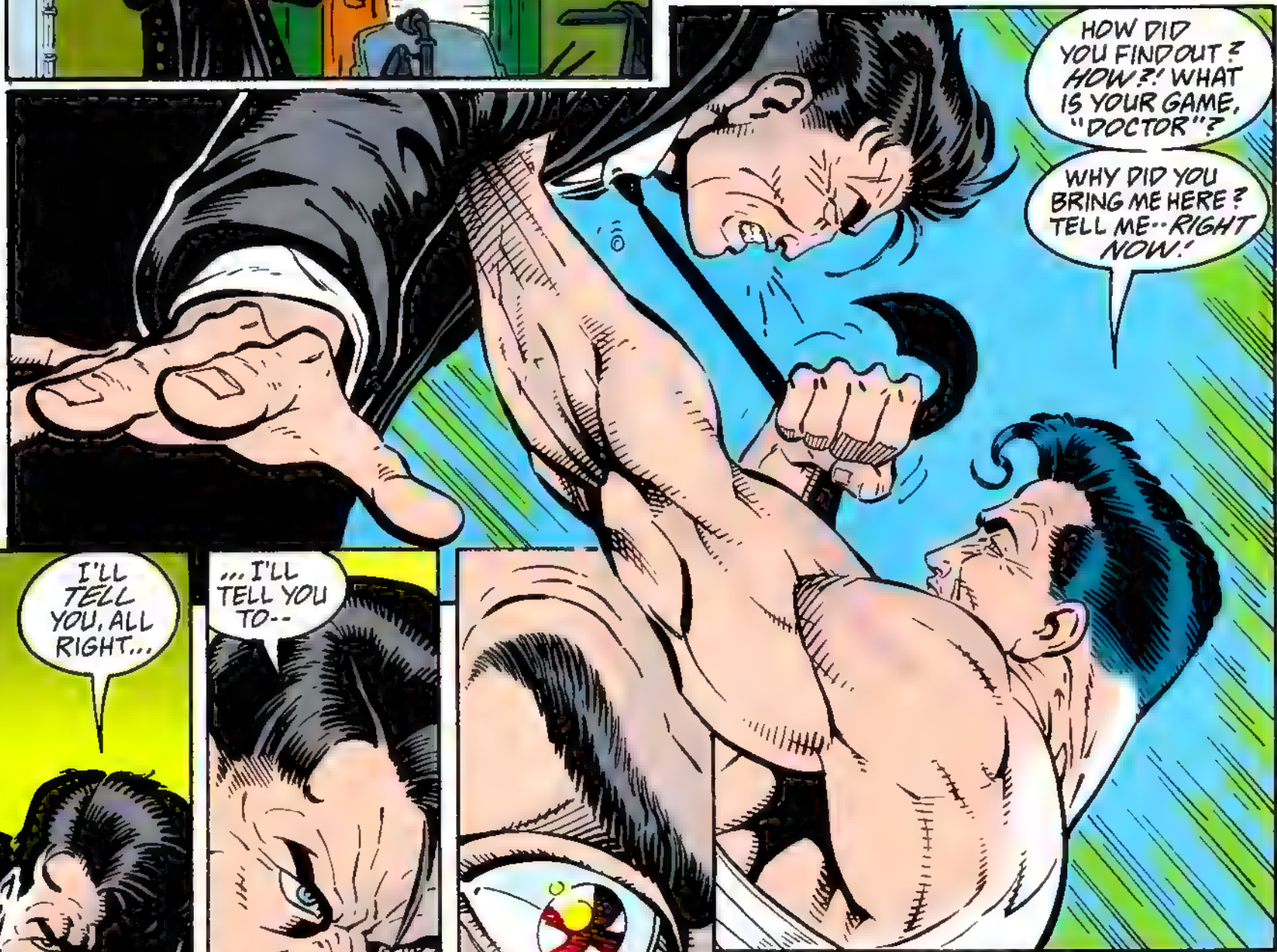
WHAT DID YOU CALL ME?!



KENT. THAT'S YOUR REAL NAME... CLARK KENT. YOU SEE--



-- I KNOW QUITE A LOT ABOUT YOU, MR. KENT. MATTER OF FACT, I PROBABLY KNOW MORE ABOUT YOU THAN YOU KNOW ABOUT YOURSELF.

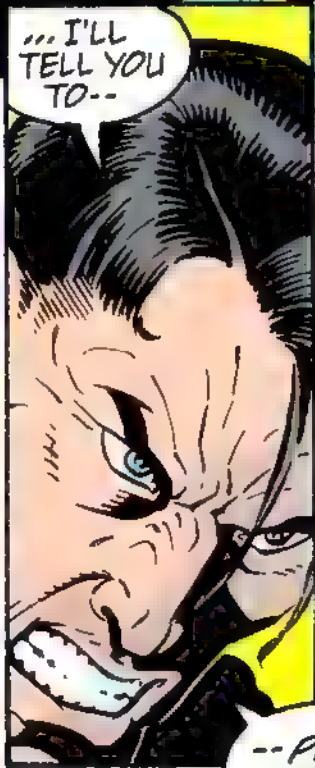


HOW DID YOU FIND OUT? HOW? WHAT IS YOUR GAME, "DOCTOR"?

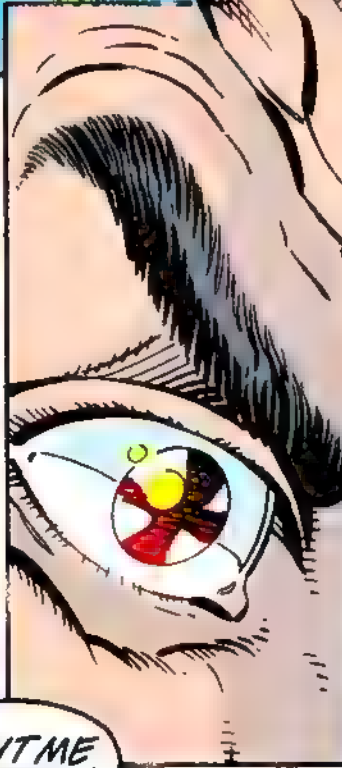
WHY DID YOU BRING ME HERE? TELL ME-- RIGHT NOW!



I'LL TELL YOU, ALL RIGHT...



... I'LL TELL YOU TO--



-- PUT ME DOWN!



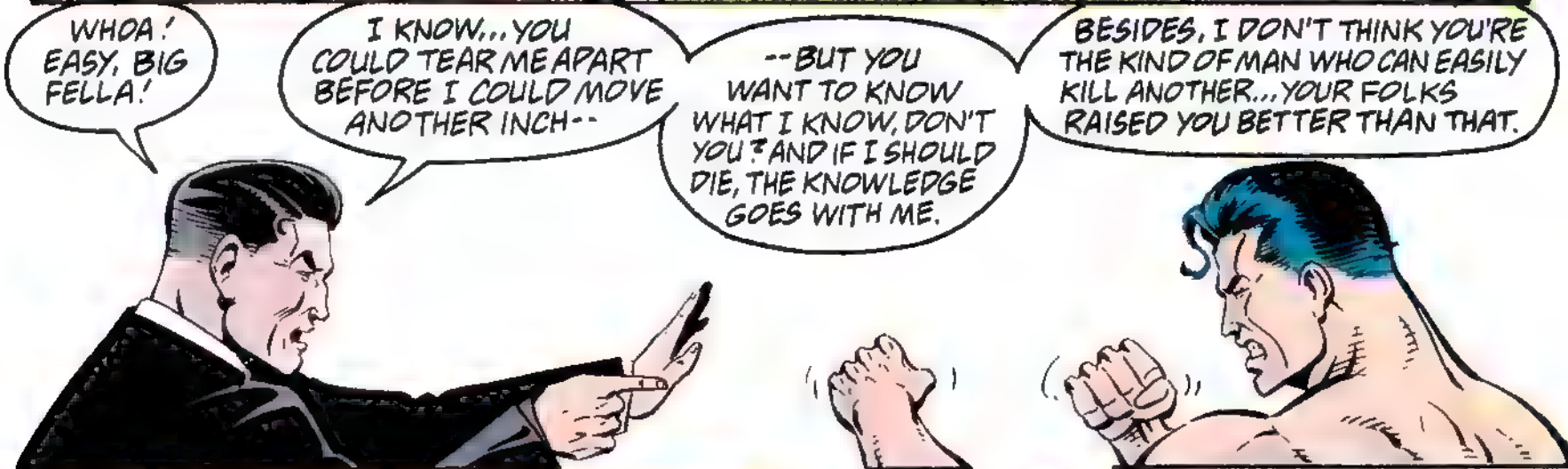
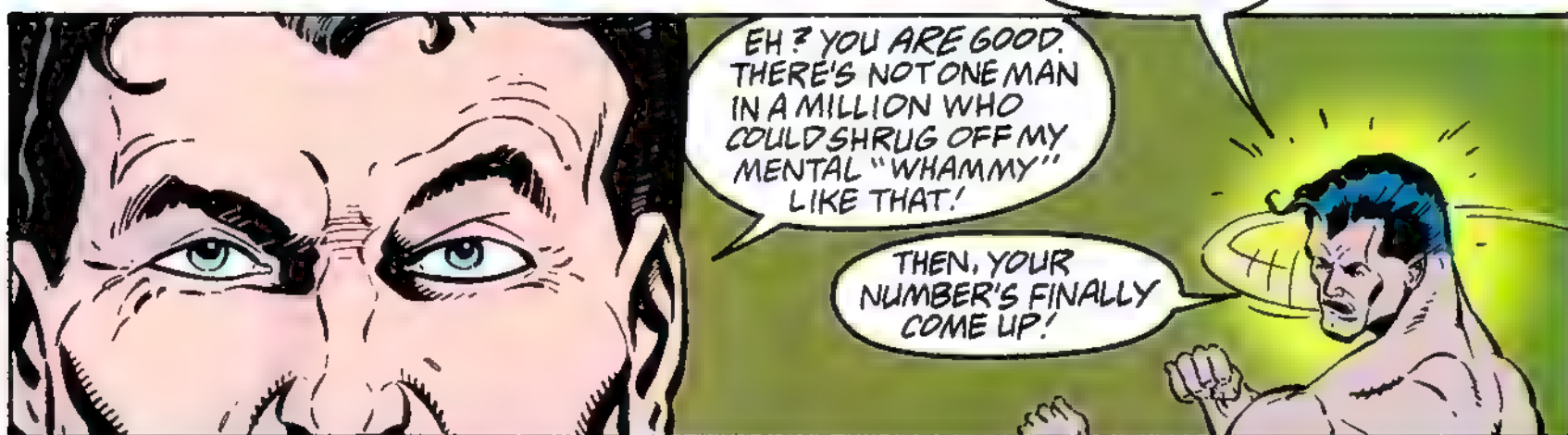
... I WANT YOU TO BE A GOOD BOY AND GO SIT DOWN-- OVER THERE!

GO... SIT... DOWN...

THERE, THAT'S BETTER.



NOW...



From the look on his kisser, I know that I got his number...and he knows that I know it.



"...I KNOW I DO."

IT ALL BEGAN
BACK DURING
WORLD WAR TWO.
YEAH, I KNOW...
I'M OLDER THAN
I LOOK.

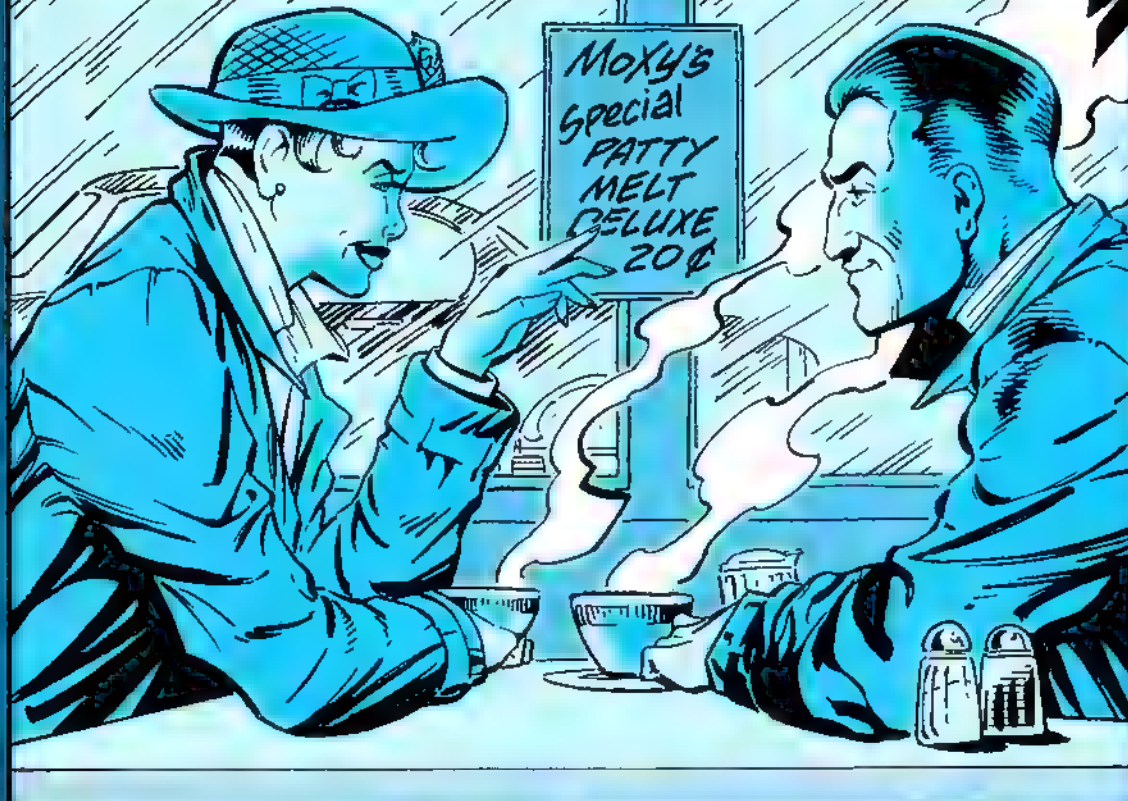
I'D ALREADY HAD
A PRETTY EVENTFUL
CAREER BY THAT POINT.
I'D FOUGHT VAMPIRES
AND ZOMBIES--ON
THIS WORLD AND
OFF IT.

MY PARTNER
AT THE TIME
WAS A WOMAN
NAMED ROSE...
A VERY CLASSY
LADY. WE'D BEEN
TOGETHER A
LONG TIME,
SHE AND I...

"...WE SHARED A LOVE OF ADVENTURE, AN
EXPERTISE IN THE MYSTIC ARTS...WE EVEN
SHARED A TASTE FOR DETECTIVE FICTION.

"DASHIELL HAMMETT WAS A SPECIAL PASSION
OF OURS. I ALWAYS SAW MYSELF AS SAM
SPADE OR THE CONTINENTAL OP--

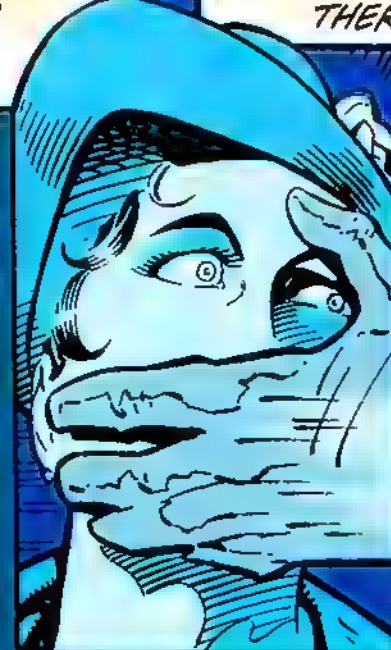
"--WHEREAS SHE SAW THE
TWO OF US AS NICK AND
NORA CHARLES. I GUESS
YOU'D CALL HER A ROMANTIC...
BUT SHE COULD BE
HARDBOILED, TOO!



"YEAH, ROSE ALWAYS
STARTED TROUBLE
STRAIGHT IN THE EYE.
I REMEMBER..."

"...WE WERE ON THE
TRAIL OF A CULT THAT
SNATCHED POTENTIAL
SACRIFICES RIGHT OFF
THE STREETS, AND
ROSE DECIDED
TO ACT AS
BAIT.

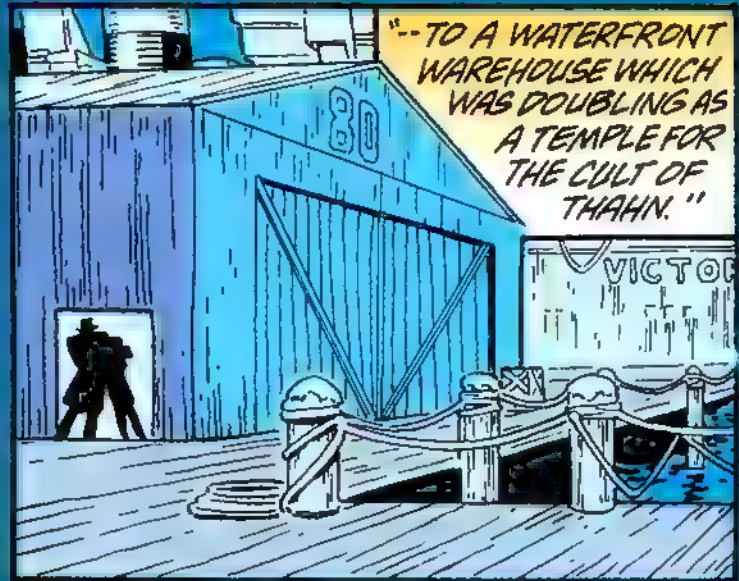
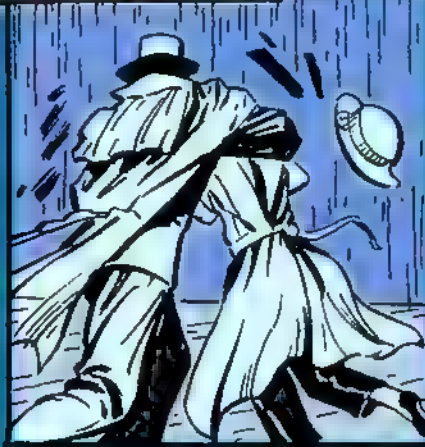
"HER PLAN WORKED
ALL RIGHT. ONE
MOMENT, SHE WAS
THERE--



"...AND THE
NEXT, SHE
WAS GONE..."



"...MANHANDLED BY A PLUG-UGLY DOWN A SERIES OF ALLEYS--



"--TO A WATERFRONT WAREHOUSE WHICH WAS DOUBLING AS A TEMPLE FOR THE CULT OF THAHN."



GOT ANUDDER ONE FOR YA, MR. HROTH.

WELL DONE! THERE IS MUCH POTENTIAL IN THIS ONE.

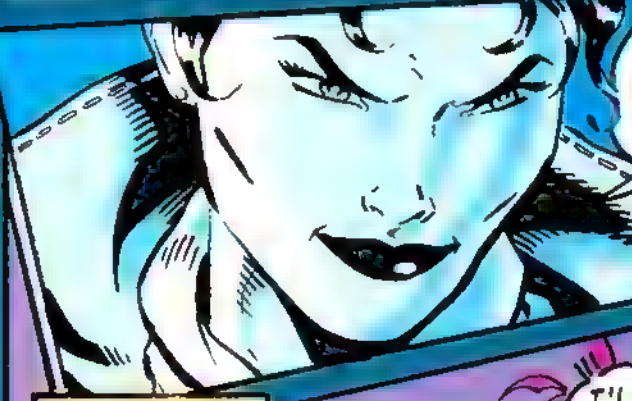


FORGIVE ME IF I DON'T CURTSEY, BUT I DIDN'T RECEIVE A FORMAL INVITATION!

SPIRITED, TOO! YES, SHE WILL DO NICELY.

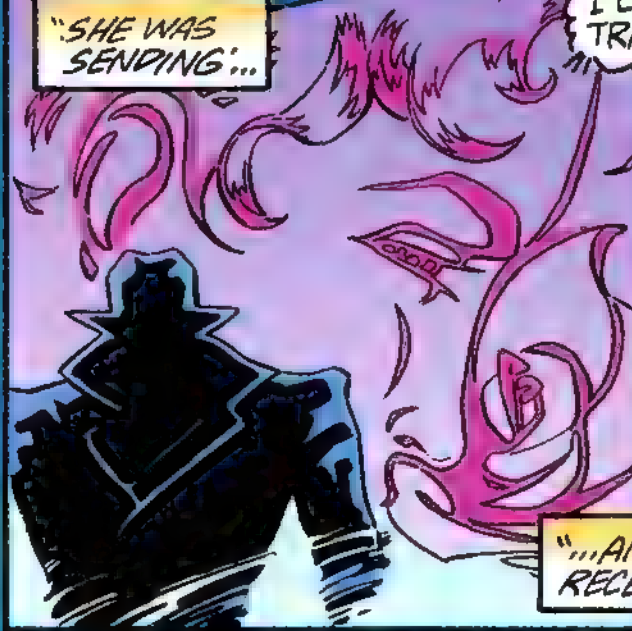


PREPARE HER FOR THE CEREMONY.



YOU'RE CRAZY IF YOU THINK YOU'LL GET AWAY WITH THIS. I'M GOING TO BE MISSED! I'LL BE TRACED... YOU'LL BE FOUND OUT!

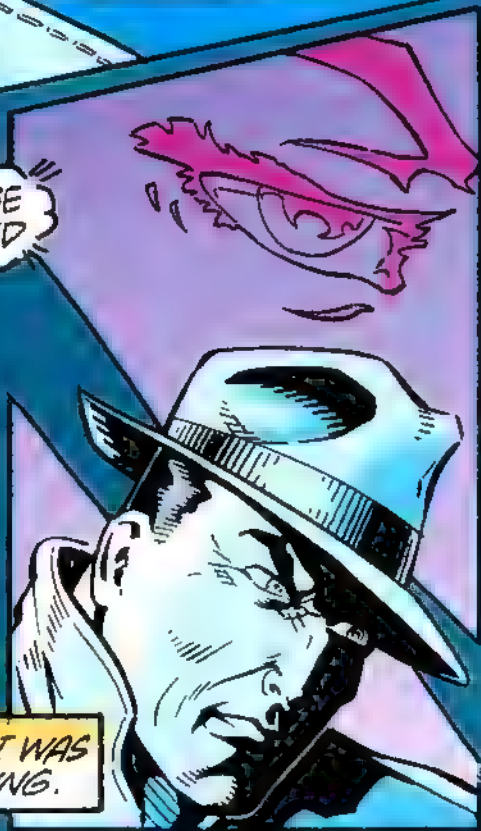
"THEY THOUGHT SHE WAS JUST BABBLING. SHE WASN'T."



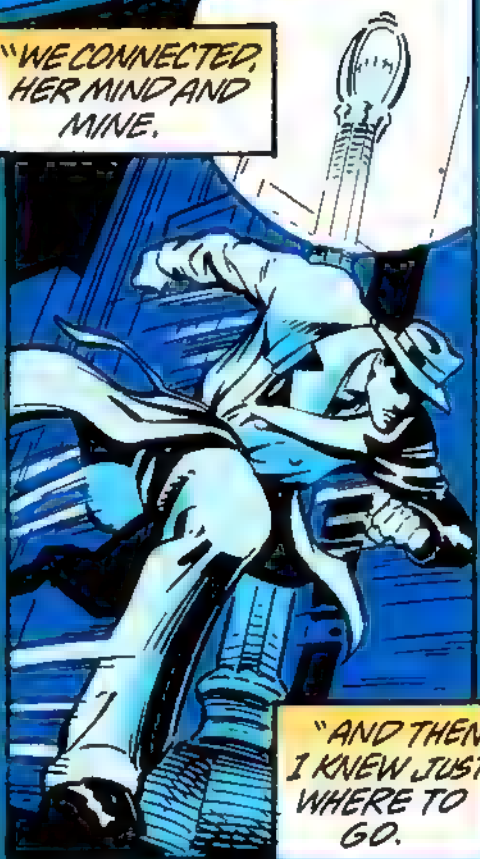
"SHE WAS SENDING..."

I'LL BE TRACED

"...AND I WAS RECEIVING."



"WE CONNECTED, HER MIND AND MINE."



"AND THEN, I KNEW JUST WHERE TO GO."

"IN THE MEANTIME,
ROSE KEPT THEM
BUSY."

"SHE KICKED
AND SQUIRMED,
DELAYING THINGS
AS MUCH AS
POSSIBLE, WHILE
THEY GOT HER
TARTED UP FOR
THEIR INFERNAL
RITUAL."

"I SWEAR, HROTH--THE CULT
LEADER--WAS STARTING TO
LICK HIS CHOPS.--

"-- WHEN I
DROPPED
IN."

BUDABUDABUDABUDA

"AS THE CULT'S
MUSCLE-BOYS
DOVE FOR COVER,
ROSE DROPPED
ALL PRETENSE
OF BEING A
VICTIM--

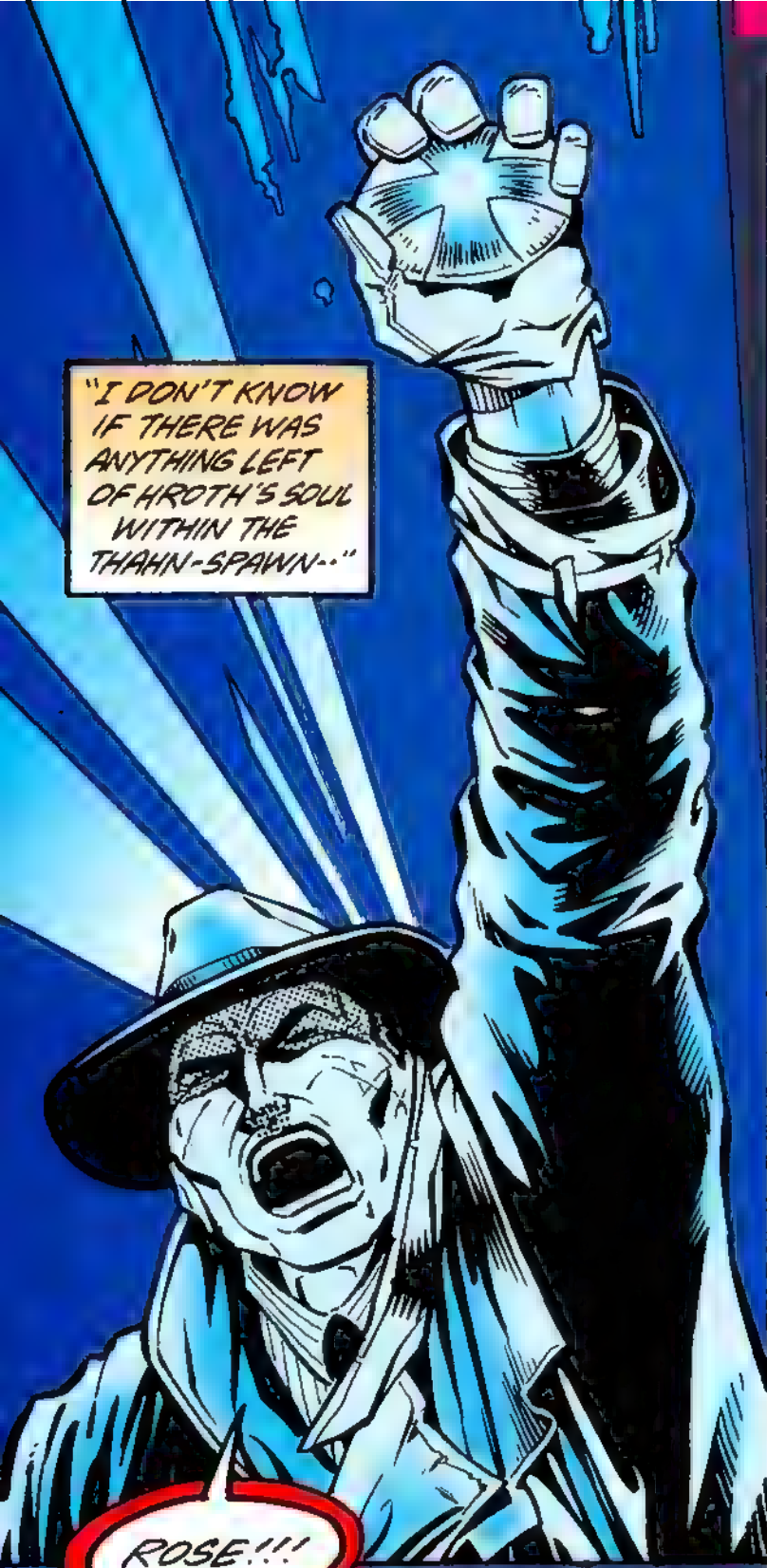
"-- AND REPAID HROTH FOR THE
ROUGH STUFF THEY'D PUT HER
THROUGH."

"THE FIRE SPREAD FAST, SO
I PUT THE WHAMMY ON
HIS STOOGES."

"THEY'D BEEN LITTLE MORE THAN PAWNS
IN HROTH'S SCHEME, AND I KNEW THAT
THE POLICE WOULD PICK THEM UP BEFORE
THEY GOT MORE THAN A FEW BLOCKS."

"WITH THE CULT'S HOLD BROKEN, ROSE
FREED THE OTHER CAPTIVES AND TOLD
THEM TO MAKE TRACKS, TOO. SHE DIDN'T
HAVE TO TELL THEM TWICE."

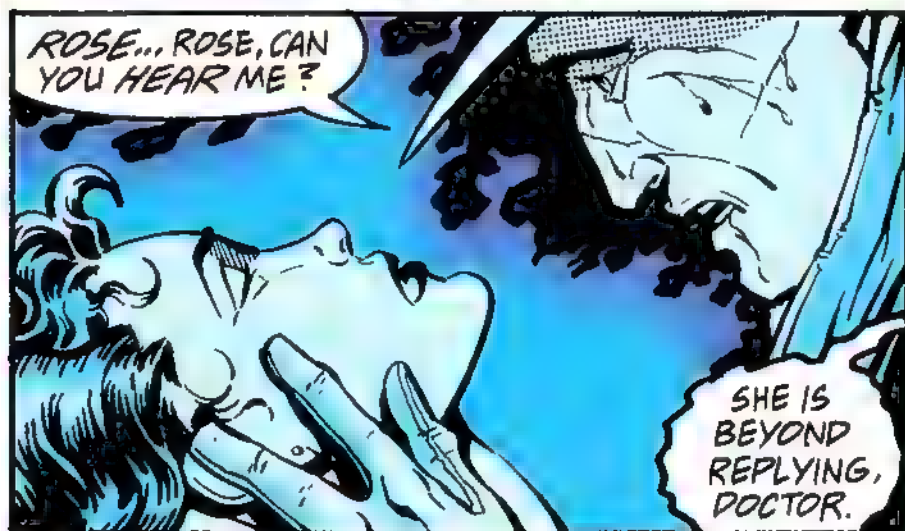
GET
OUT!



"I DON'T KNOW
IF THERE WAS
ANYTHING LEFT
OF HROTH'S SOUL
WITHIN THE
THAHN-SPAWN--"

ROSE!!!

"--AND, AT THAT
MOMENT, I'M AFRAID
THAT I NO LONGER
CARED."



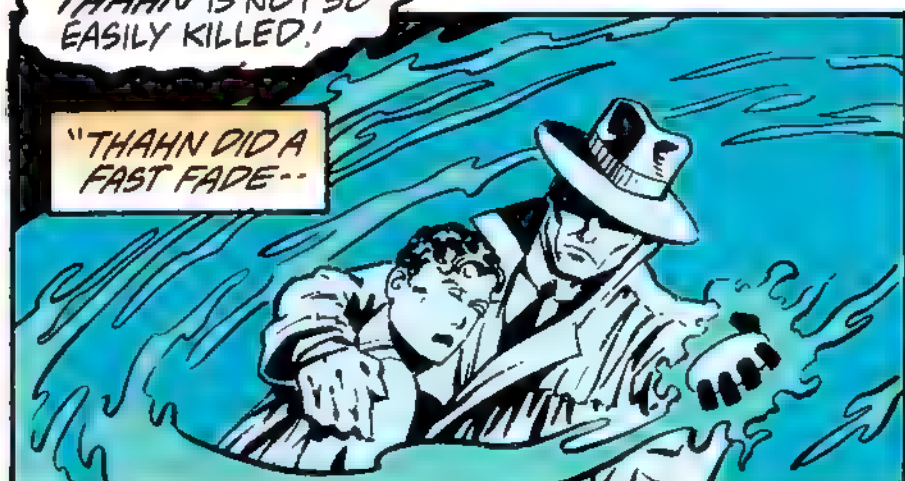
ROSE... ROSE, CAN
YOU HEAR ME?

SHE IS
BEYOND
REPLYING,
DOCTOR.

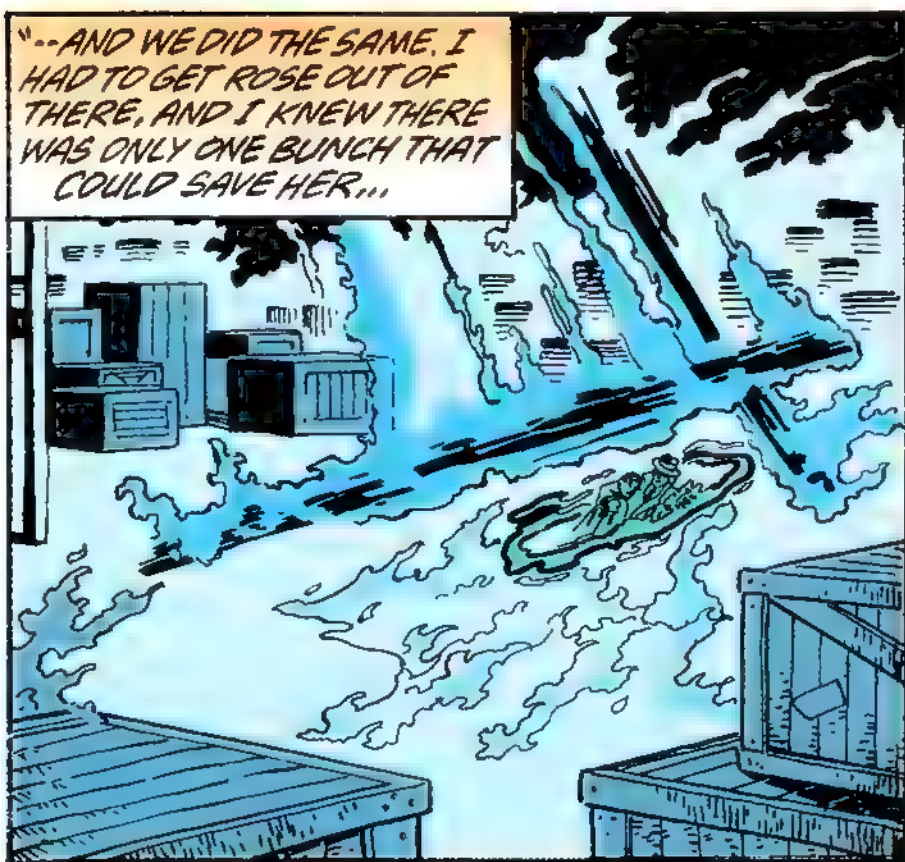


OH, YES, I KNOW OF
YOU... DOCTOR OCCULT
AND ROSE PSYCHIC.
YOU HAVE THWARTED
MY PLANS, BUT I SHALL
YET HAVE MY WAY
WITH YOUR LITTLE
WORLD.

UNLIKE YOURSELVES,
THAHN IS NOT SO
EASILY KILLED!



"THAHN DID A
FAST FADE--"



"--AND WE DID THE SAME. I
HAD TO GET ROSE OUT OF
THERE, AND I KNEW THERE
WAS ONLY ONE BUNCH THAT
COULD SAVE HER..."

"...THE SEVEN WHO HAD SCHOoled US IN THE MYSTIC ARTS.

"THEY DID ALL THAT THEY COULD FOR HER... BUT HER WOUNDS WERE SO GRAVE. I KNEW THEN--"

--THAT WE COULD NEVER AGAIN WALK ARM IN ARM... THAT I'D NEVER FEEL HER TOUCH, TASTE HER KISS.

YOU KNOW, IT'S BEEN DECADES, BUT... WELL... ROSE WILL BE WITH ME FOREVER.

IF I'D BEEN JUST A FEW SECONDS QUICKER, WE COULD HAVE STOPPED THAHN! AS IT WAS, ALL WE DID WAS SEND HIM PACKING. I'VE SPENT YEARS TRYING TO PICK UP HIS TRAIL.

NOW THAHN IS BACK--MAYBE MORE POWERFUL THAN BEFORE--AND THIS TIME, WE'VE GOT TO DESTROY HIM... ROSE'S SACRIFICE CAN'T HAVE BEEN IN VAIN!

I UNDERSTAND. ROSE SOUNDS A LOT LIKE A WOMAN I KNOW. I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR LOSS--!

I DON'T WANT YOUR SYMPATHY! I WANT YOUR HELP!

THAT SHAPE-SHIFTER WHO TACKLED YOU EARLIER WAS ONE OF THAHN'S LESSER PAWNS. THE OLD BOY HIMSELF WILL BE A LOT HARDER TO BEAT.

THERE'S NOT A RIP ANYWHERE. HOW--?

YOU WITH ME?

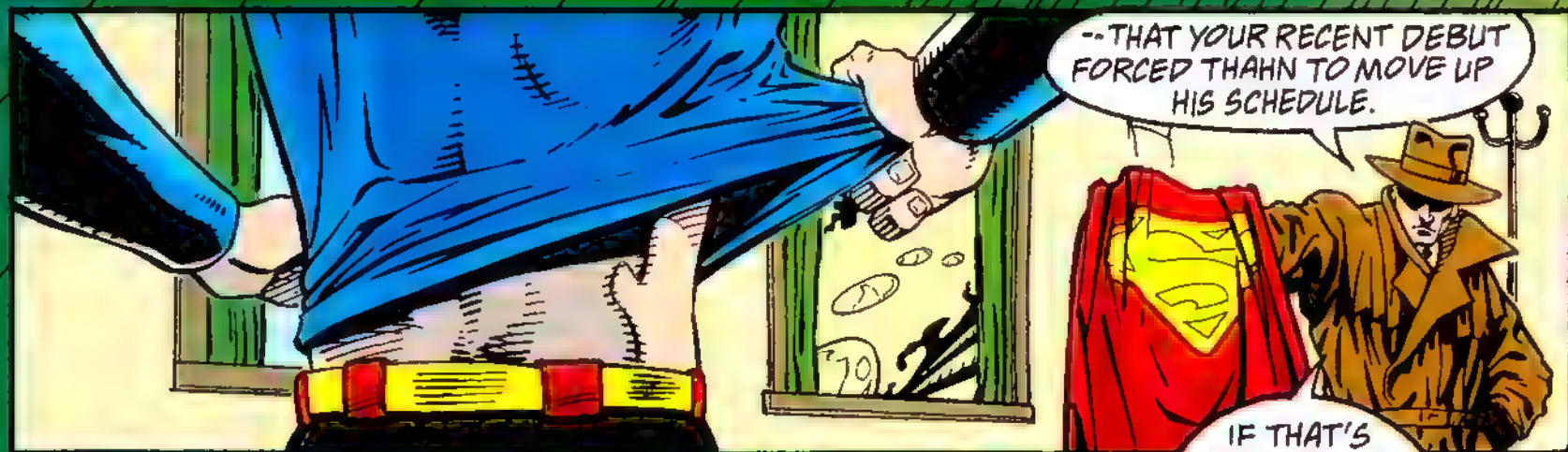
UH... YES. OF COURSE.

GOOD.

HERE--

--MAKE YOURSELF PRESENTABLE!

YOU KNOW, THE SEVEN ARE CONVINCED THAT YOU'RE THE KEY TO ACING THAHN. THEY THINK IT'S POSSIBLE--

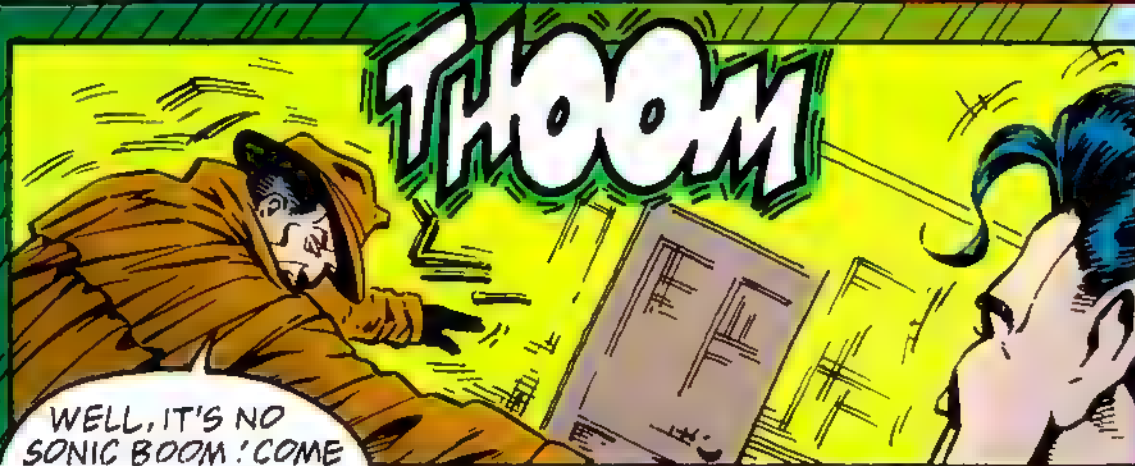


--THAT YOUR RECENT DEBUT FORCED THAHN TO MOVE UP HIS SCHEDULE.

IF THAT'S THE CASE, WE HAVE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF--!



WHAT THE DEVIL IS THAT?!

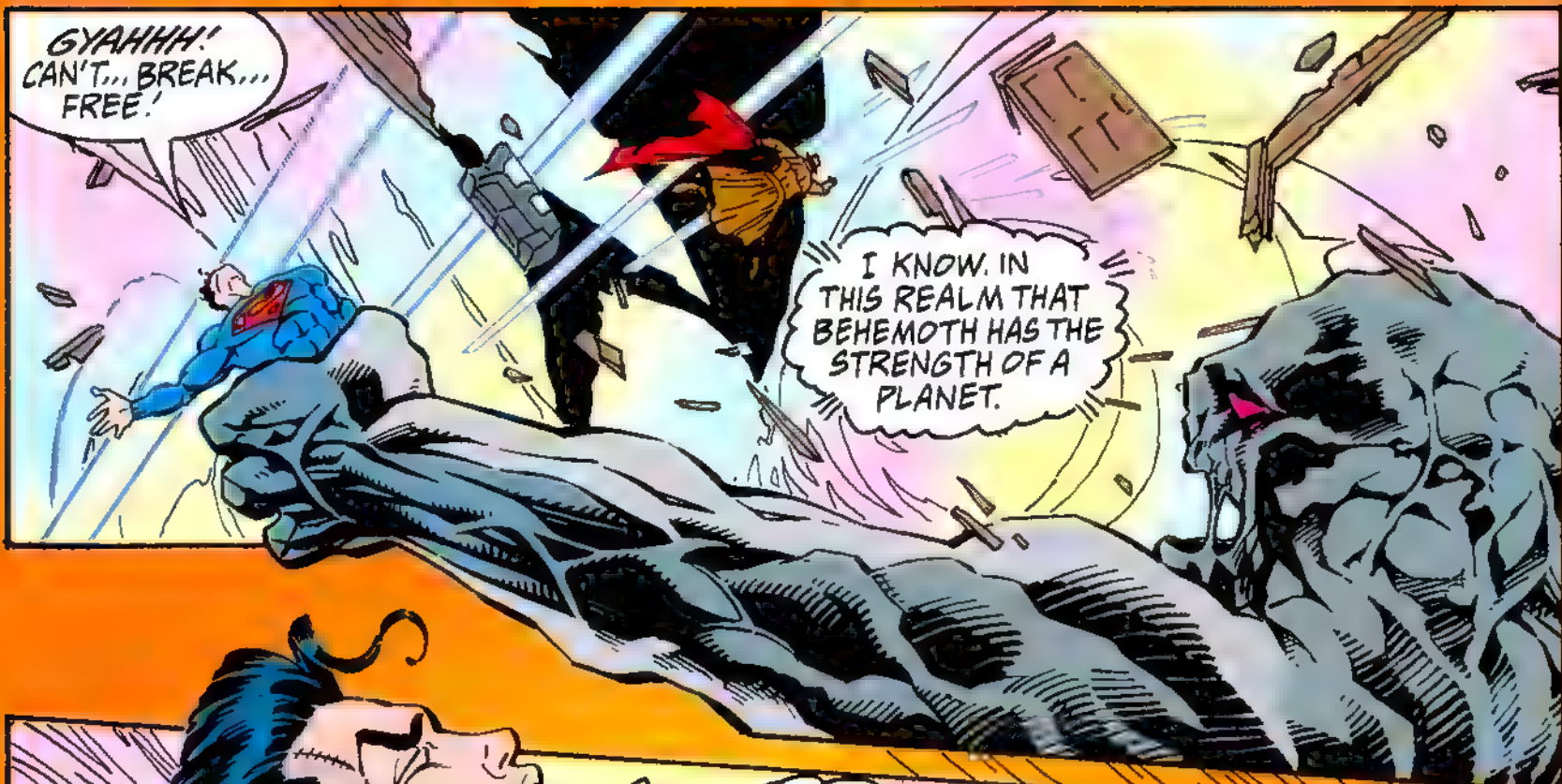


WELL, IT'S NO SONIC BOOM! COME ON, WE GOTTA GET TO THE DOOR BEFORE--!



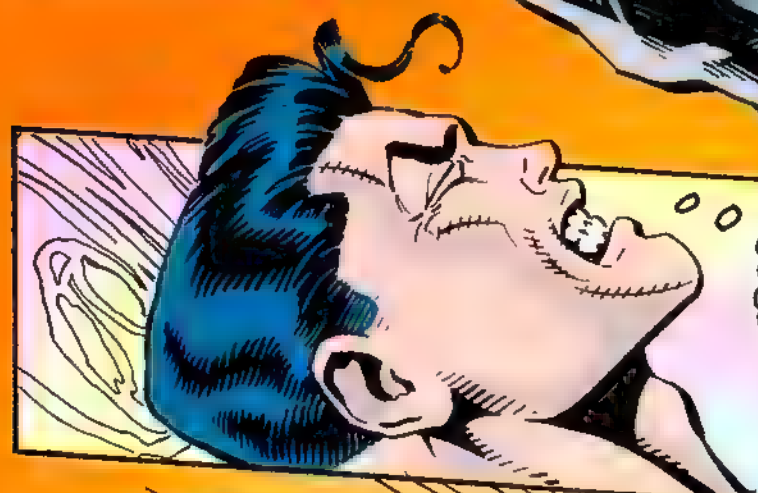
TOO LATE.

HOLEE--!



GYAHHH!
CAN'T... BREAK...
FREE!

I KNOW. IN
THIS REALM THAT
BEHEMOTH HAS THE
STRENGTH OF A
PLANET.

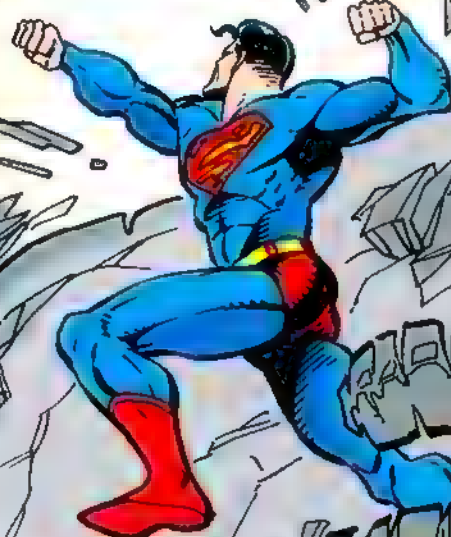


VOICE IN
MY HEAD...
OCCULT?

YES. LISTEN
CAREFULLY... BIG BOY
THERE WILL TRY TO
SWALLOW YOU. WHEN
HE DOES, AIM FOR
HIS CHIN--

--AND GIVE
IT ALL YOU'VE
GOT!

POW!



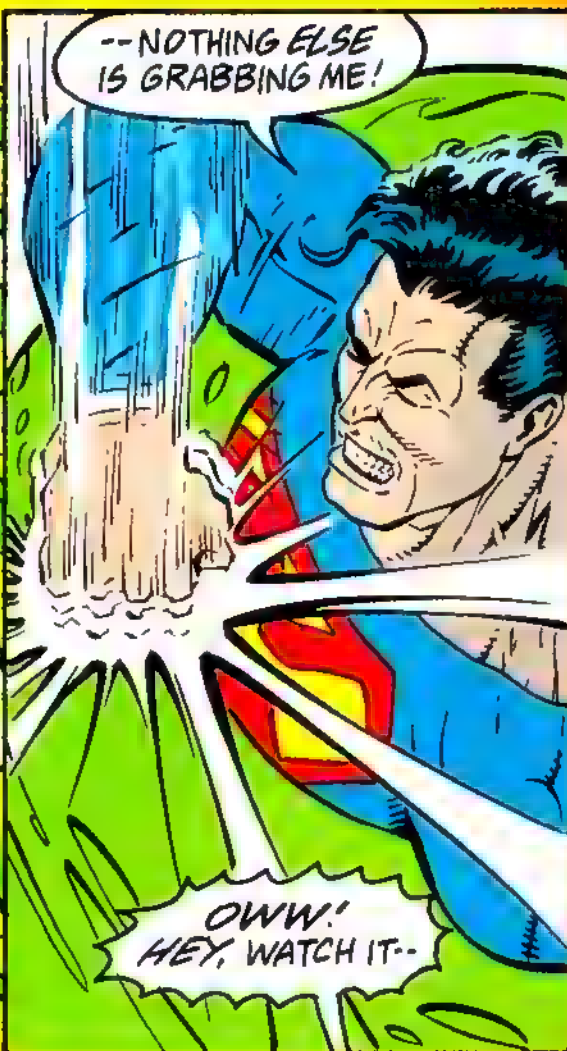
IT... SHATTERED?! HOW CAN
ANYTHING WITH SUCH A GRIP COME
APART SO EASILY?

MAYBE YOU DON'T KNOW
YOUR OWN STRENGTH--OR
MAYBE IT JUST HAD A GLASS
JAW. IT DOESN'T MATTER
NOW...



...WHAT MATTERS IS US GETTING OUTTA HERE.

EH?
OH,
NO--



--NOTHING ELSE IS GRABBING ME!

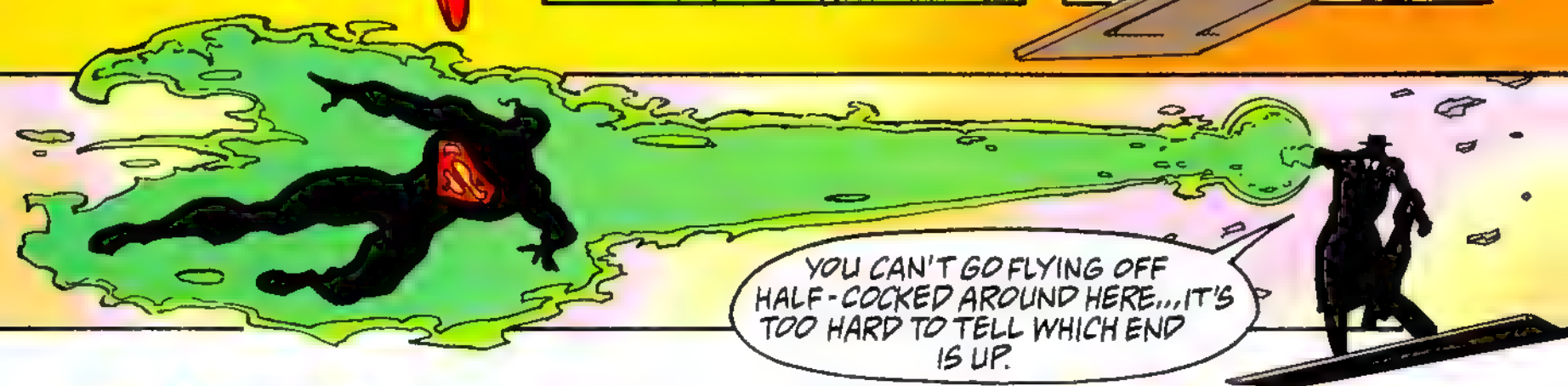
OWW!
HEY, WATCH IT--



--I FELT THAT! I WAS TRYING TO REEL YOU IN.

OH.
SORRY.

RELAX,
WILL
YA?



YOU CAN'T GO FLYING OFF HALF-COCKED AROUND HERE...IT'S TOO HARD TO TELL WHICH END IS UP.



WRR!

WRR!

WRR!

NOW
WHAT?

NOW--



"--WE HAVE ABOUT A THOUSAND NEW LITTLE PLAYMATES."

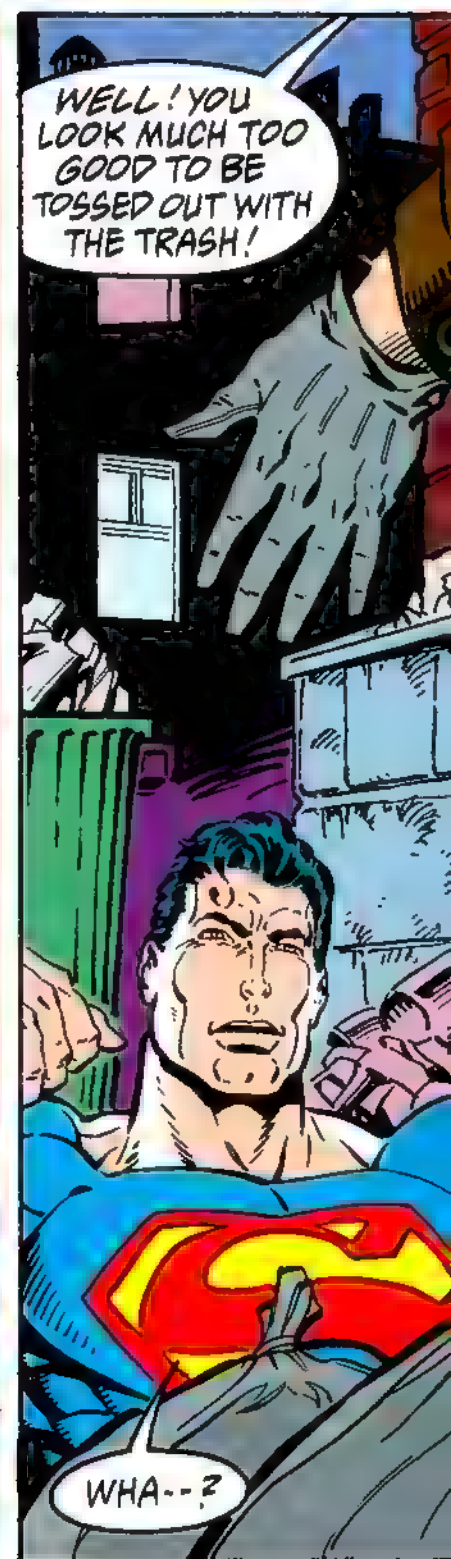
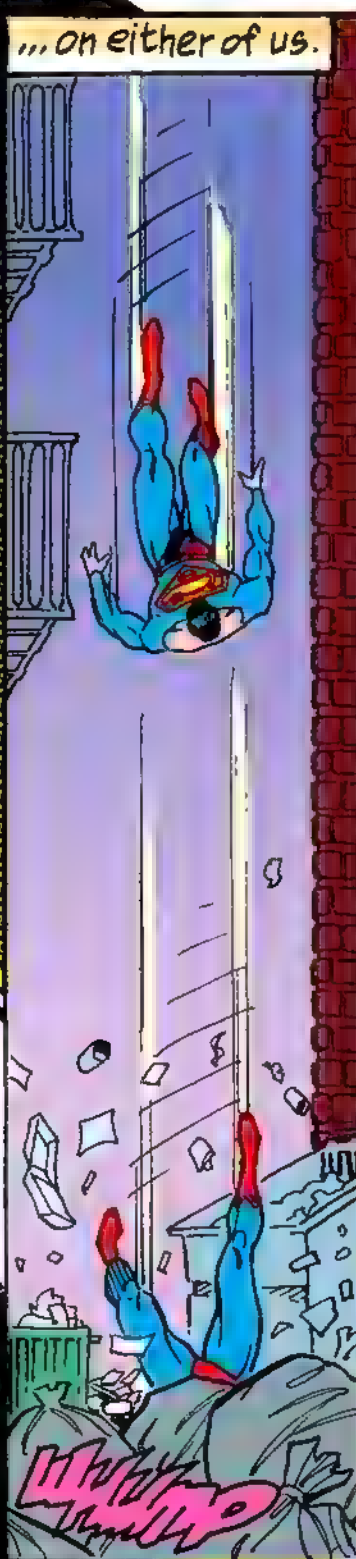
GRR!

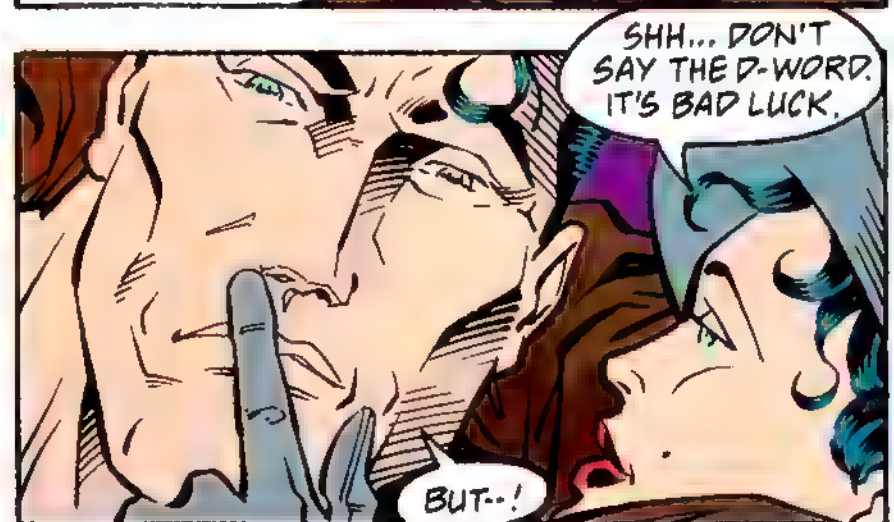
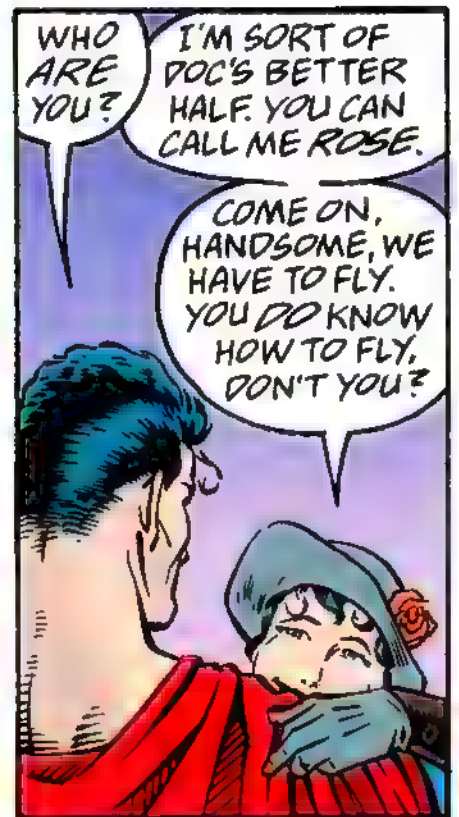
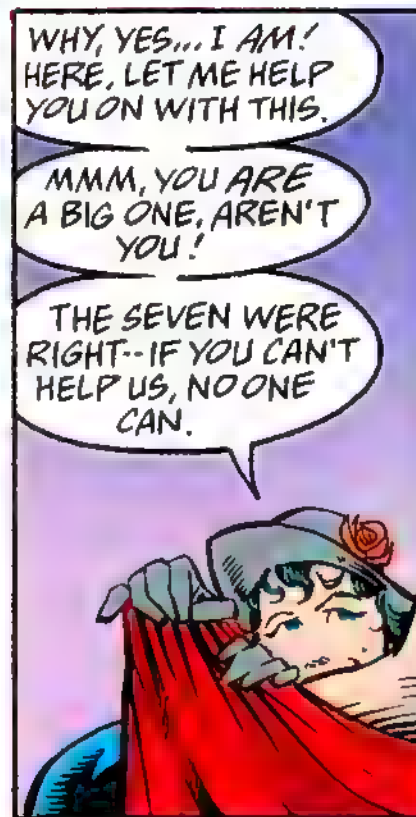
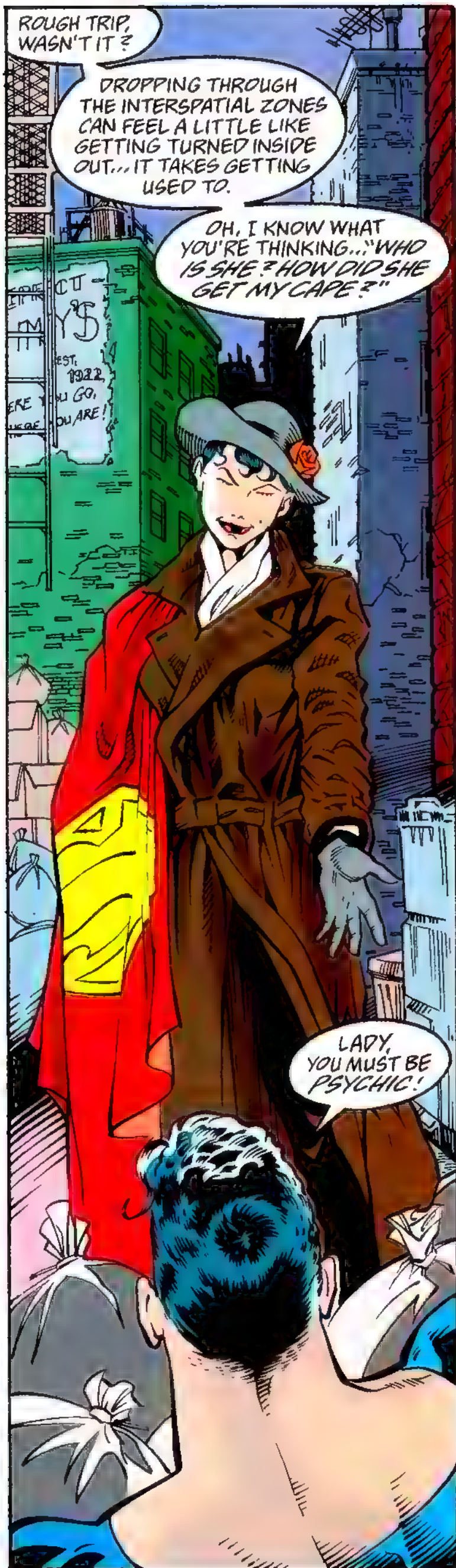
GRR!

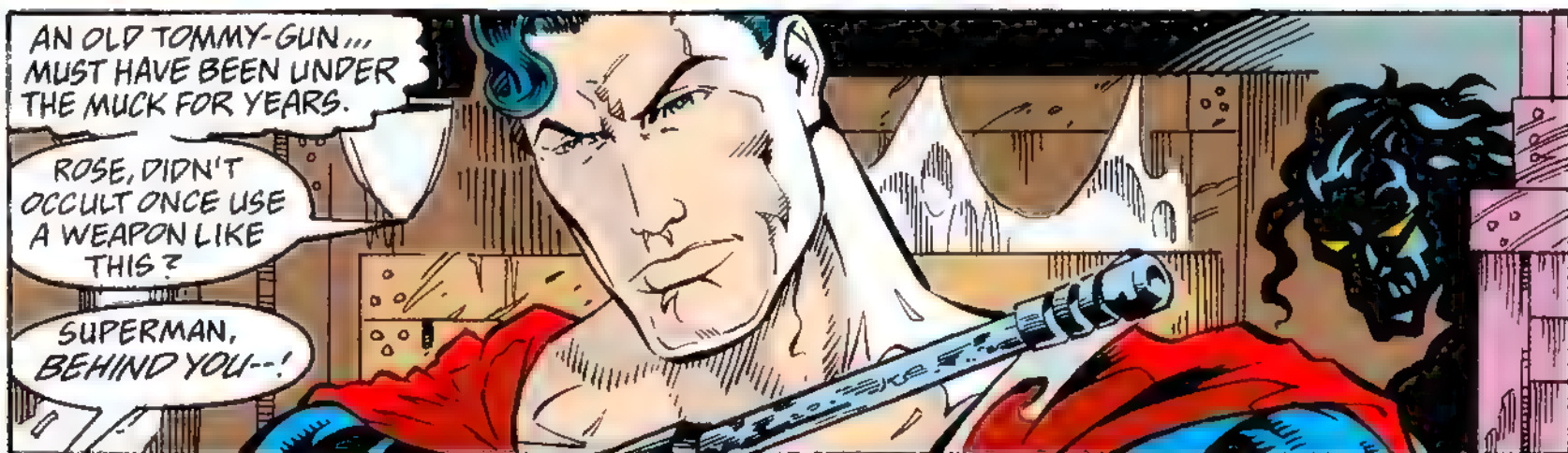
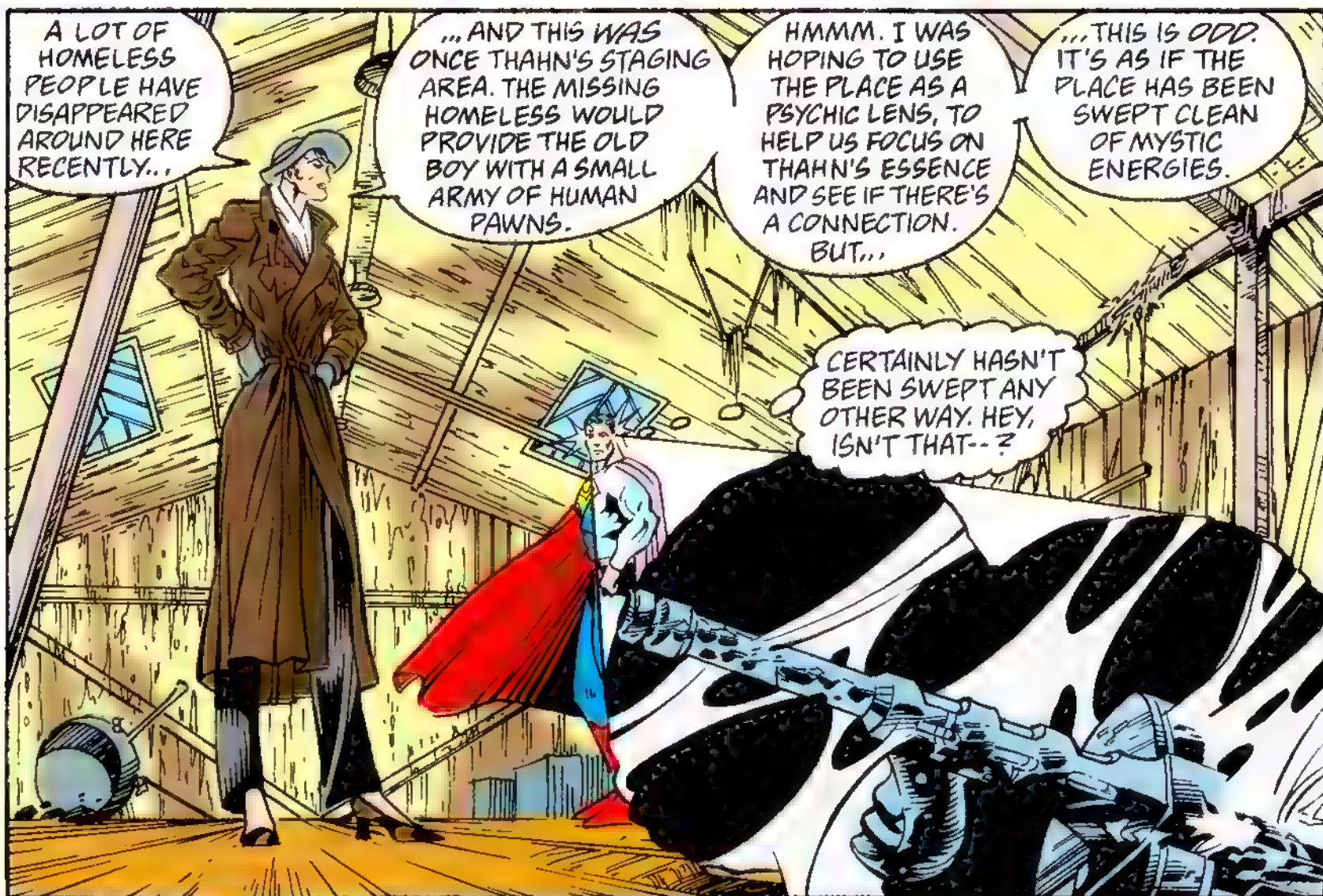
GAP!

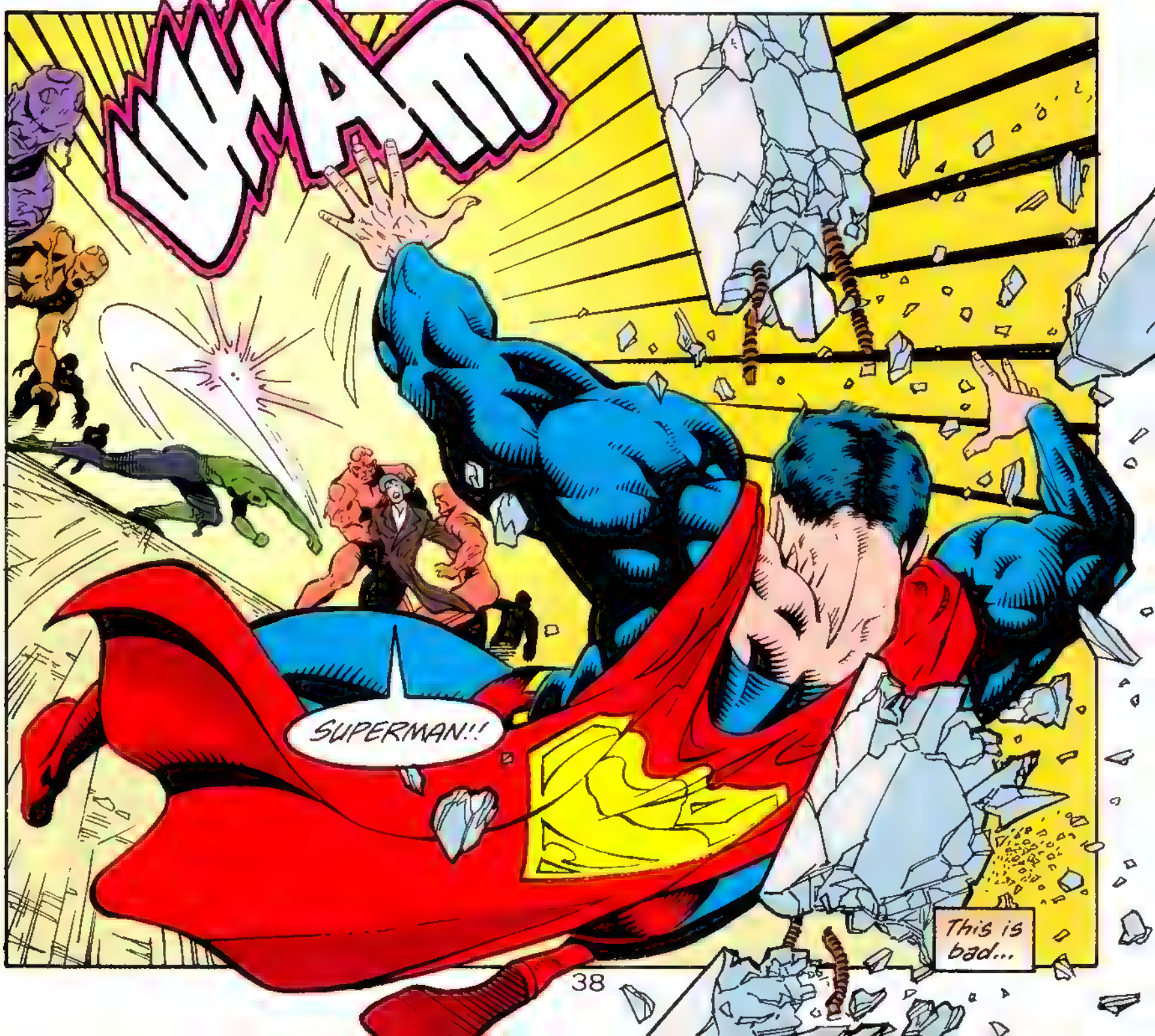


LET'S HOPE THAT MYSHIELDS HOLD UP BETTER THAN THEIR PAPPY'S JAWS.











...this is very bad! I never dreamed that Thahn would invest so much power in human pawns.

I see his plan now...the earlier attacks were just to set us up.

He cloaked his main force and kept them hidden here--and when we come searching--!



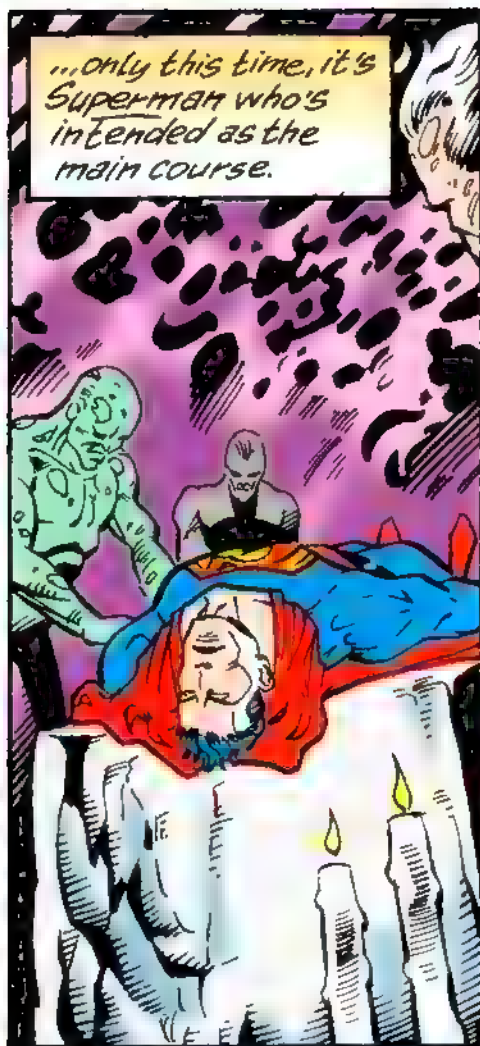
OMIGOD.



WHAT HAVE WE GOTTEN SUPERMAN INTO?

That altar...it's just like the one Hroth was going to stick me on!

They're using the power to recreate the conditions for a sacrifice...



...only this time, it's Superman who's intended as the main course.



And there's the monster of ceremonies. If Thahn's willing to manifest himself on the physical plane, he must think he's already won.

No wonder. He's stronger than before, and he's only moments away from possessing Superman ...body and soul.



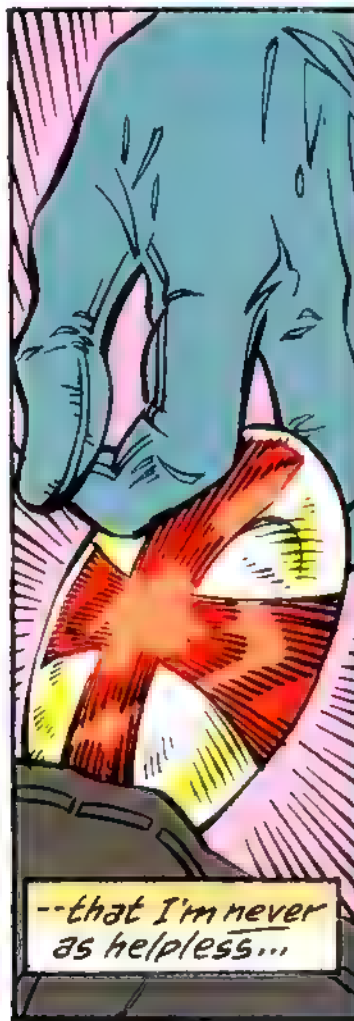
After all, this almost worked for Thahn before.

Almost.

But this time, the good guys are stronger, too.



And just like before, Thahn and his boys have failed to realize--



--that I'm never as helpless...



...as I look.

?!?

SURPRISE.



The ol' bait and switch.



Works every time.

No time to waste, though.

My old Thompson...

...we've all seen better days. Regular ammo would probably blow it apart. But it should clean up well enough--

--to handle a few rounds of Magic Bullets!

I just hope it'll be enough. Thahn has a lot of pawns--

--and the advantage of surprise won't last forever.

SUPERMAN!
WAKE UP, YA BIG LUG!

EH?
OCCULT?!

IT'S NOT SARGON THE SORCERER!
C'MON, PAL, GET YOUR ACT TOGETHER!

SOME...
FORCE...
PINNING ME DOWN.

THAT'S THAHN'S MAGIC. YOU HAVE TO FIGHT IT!

YOU HAVE TO FIGHT LIKE YOU'VE NEVER FOUGHT BEFORE!

THE WHOLE WORLD'S
DEPENDING ON YOU.

I CAN'T STOP
THAHN ON MY
OWN.

YOU HAVE TO BREAK
HIS HOLD BEFORE HE
BREAKS YOU!

NO.

I...WILL...
NOT...

...BREAK!!

Wow.

THIS IS
NOT THE
END...
NOT THE
END

-Ungh-

The rest of Thahn's
army folded the
instant Superman
broke the spell.

NICE WORK...
BUT WE'RE NOT
OUT OF THE WOODS
YET.

NO?

NOT EVEN CLOSE.
THAHN'S PLAYING THE
CHESHIRE CAT-- HE'S
DONE A FADE, BUT HE'S
NOT GONE. I CAN STILL
SMELL 'IM...

SPEAK
OF THE
DEVIL--!

KRAK KRAKATA

That's Thahn... all over. The old boy's going for broke.

In his own way, he must have been depending on Superman's power as much as I was.

IT'S DO-OR-DIE TIME, BLUE. THAHN STILL HAS PLENTY OF MOXIE, BUT HE'S NOWHERE NEAR OMNIPOTENT IN THIS REALITY... YET.

HE CAN STILL BE TAKEN OUT, IF WE CAN TURN HIS OWN POWER AGAINST HIM.

RIGHT.

COVER MY BACK.

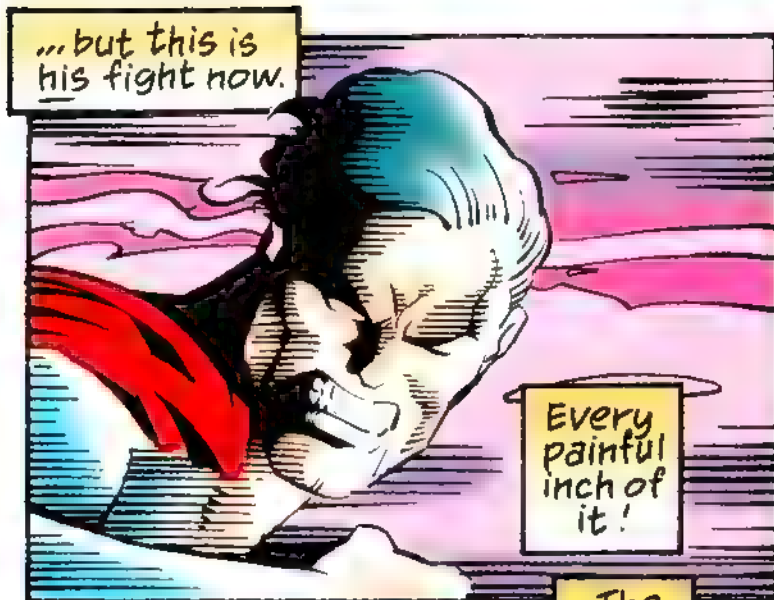
He catches on quick.

But Thahn isn't making this easy... that blast would've split open a tank!

Now that the power's been denied him, he'll settle for wiping it out.

Superman's will is even stronger than his muscles. I know he's still hurting from the earlier struggles, but he's not letting that stop him.

Good thing. I can lay down cover fire...





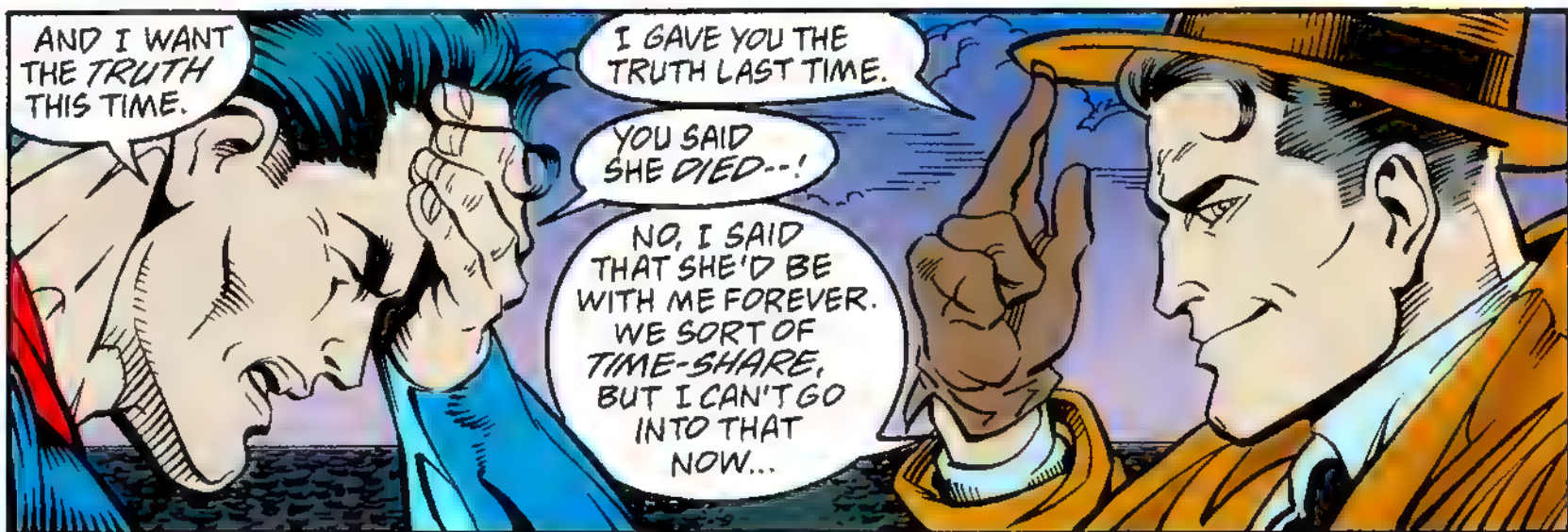
Rose, honey... I hope you caught every minute of that. That was for you, babe.

OCCULT... NOW IS IT OVER?

OH, YEAH. IT'S ALL OVER. THAHN WON'T BE BOTHERING ANYONE... EVER AGAIN.

THANK GOD.

NOW... TELL ME ABOUT ROSE! WHERE IS SHE?



AND I WANT THE TRUTH THIS TIME.

I GAVE YOU THE TRUTH LAST TIME.

YOU SAID SHE DIED--!

NO, I SAID THAT SHE'D BE WITH ME FOREVER. WE SORT OF TIME-SHARE, BUT I CAN'T GO INTO THAT NOW...



...THAHN'S PAWNS HAVE REVERTED TO NORMAL. THEY'RE GOING TO NEED HELP.

OW. WHERE--?

COLD.

WUZ GOIN' ON?



YOU'RE REALLY SOMETHING, OCCULT. IF NOTHING ELSE, YOU'RE A MASTER OF MISDIRECTION.

AH, IT'S NOTHING. COMES WITH THE TERRITORY.

I DON'T LIKE IT ONE BIT!

I HAVE A LOT OF QUESTIONS, AND YOU OWE ME ANSWERS!

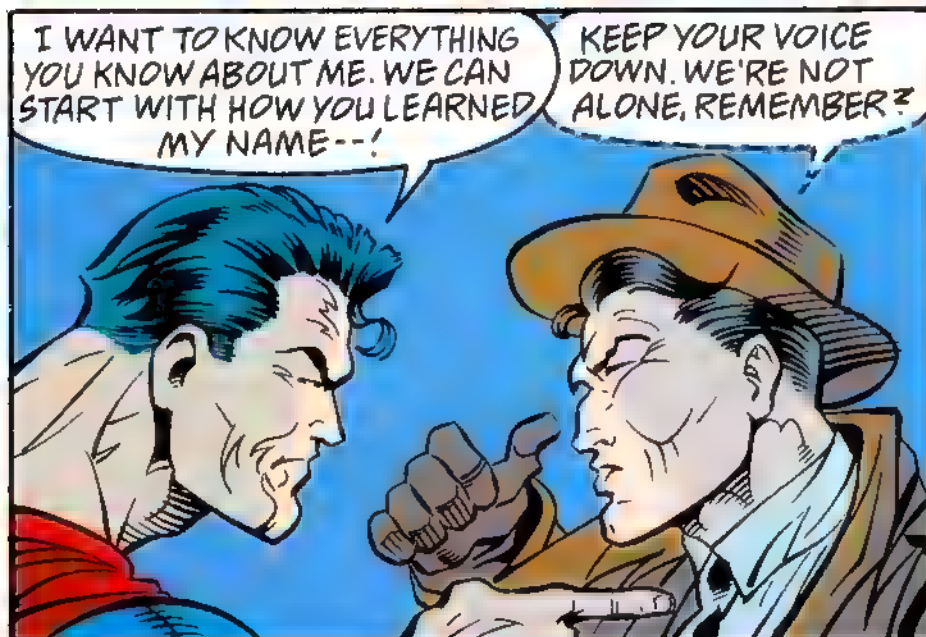
EASY, BLUE, EASY! ALL IN GOOD TIME.



THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT THAHN WAS FINALLY STOPPED-- AND WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU.

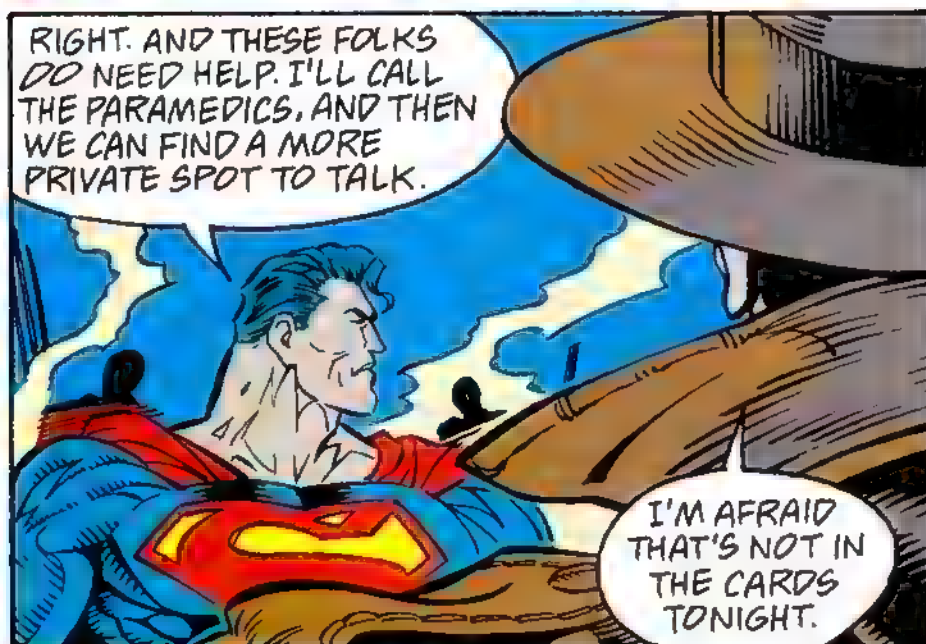
BELIEVE ME, ROSE IS AS GRATEFUL AS I AM.

DON'T CHANGE THE SUBJECT.



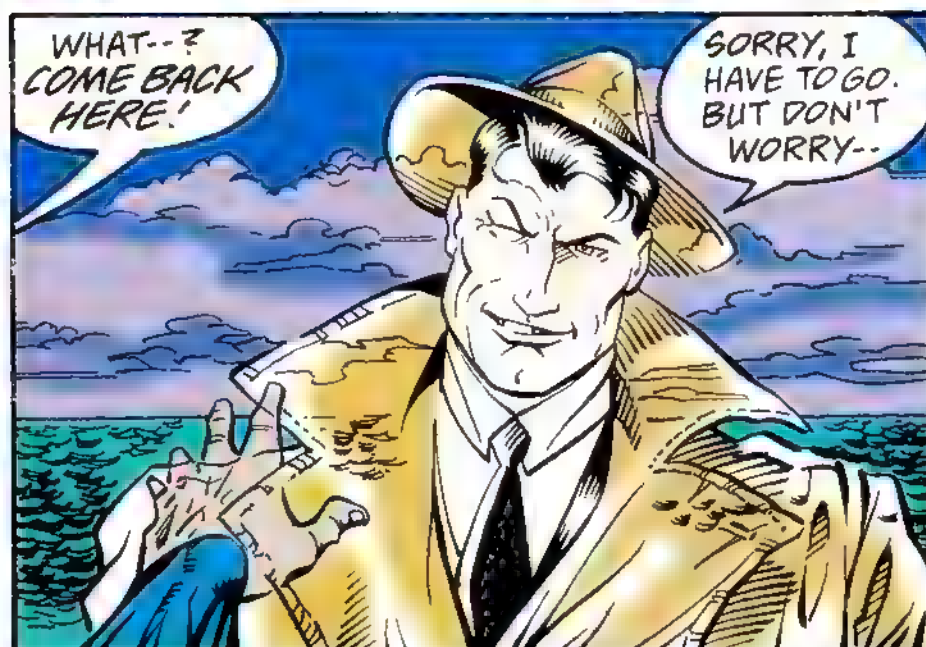
I WANT TO KNOW EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT ME. WE CAN START WITH HOW YOU LEARNED MY NAME--!

KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN. WE'RE NOT ALONE, REMEMBER?



RIGHT. AND THESE FOLKS DO NEED HELP. I'LL CALL THE PARAMEDICS, AND THEN WE CAN FIND A MORE PRIVATE SPOT TO TALK.

I'M AFRAID THAT'S NOT IN THE CARDS TONIGHT.



WHAT--? COME BACK HERE!

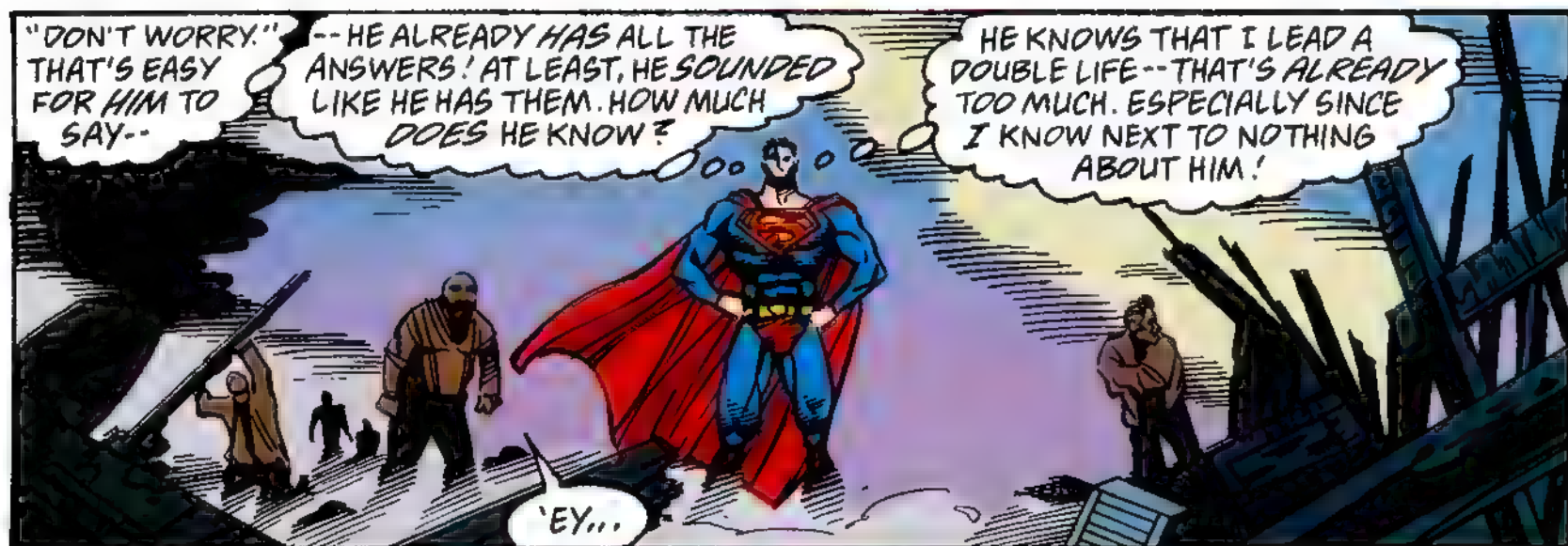
SORRY, I HAVE TO GO. BUT DON'T WORRY--



--YOUR SECRETS ARE SAFE WITH ME, EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM.

THAT MAY SOUND LIKE A CLICHÉ, BUT I MEAN IT... SINCERELY.

DON'T SWEAT THE QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR PAST. THE ANSWERS WILL BECOME CLEAR TO YOU... JUST LIKE I SAID... ALL IN GOOD TIME...

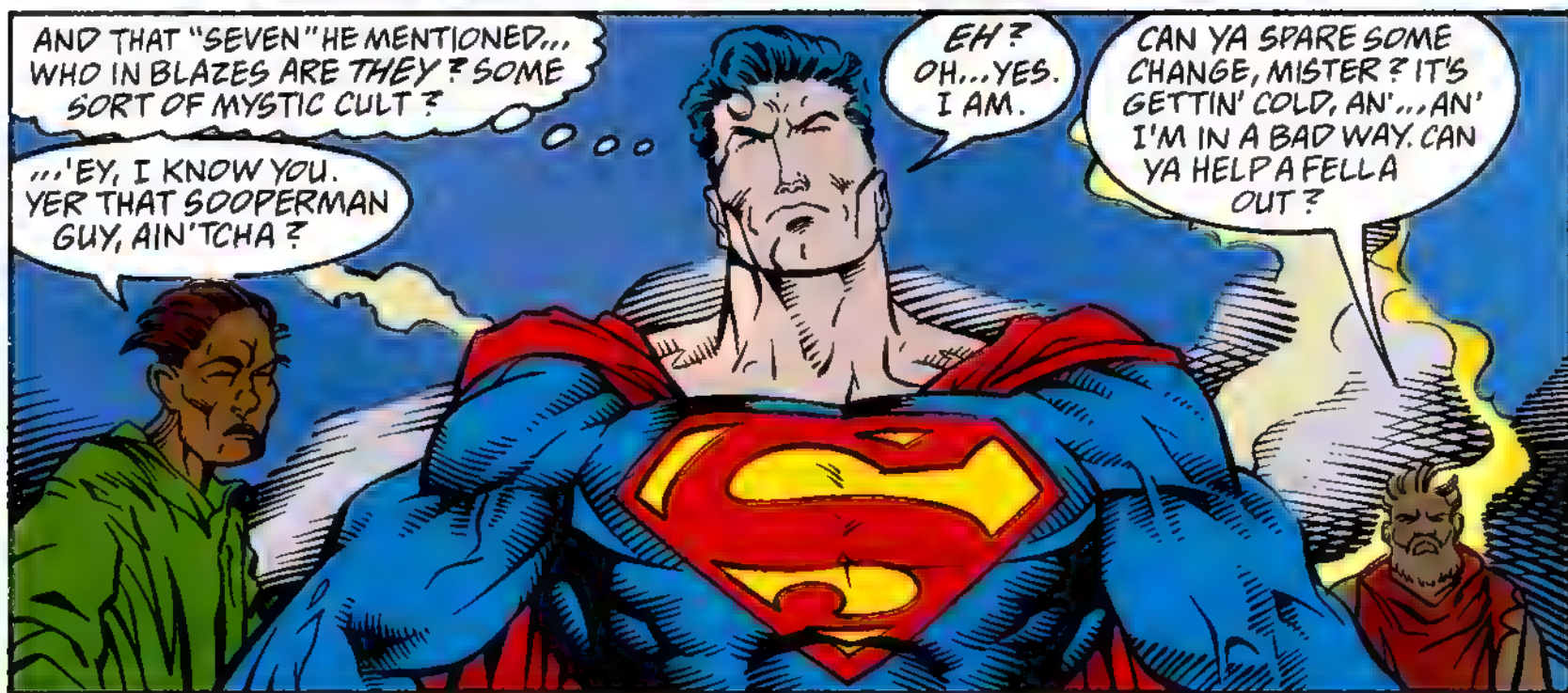


"DON'T WORRY." THAT'S EASY FOR HIM TO SAY--

-- HE ALREADY HAS ALL THE ANSWERS! AT LEAST, HE SOUNDED LIKE HE HAS THEM. HOW MUCH DOES HE KNOW?

HE KNOWS THAT I LEAD A DOUBLE LIFE-- THAT'S ALREADY TOO MUCH. ESPECIALLY SINCE I KNOW NEXT TO NOTHING ABOUT HIM!

'EY...

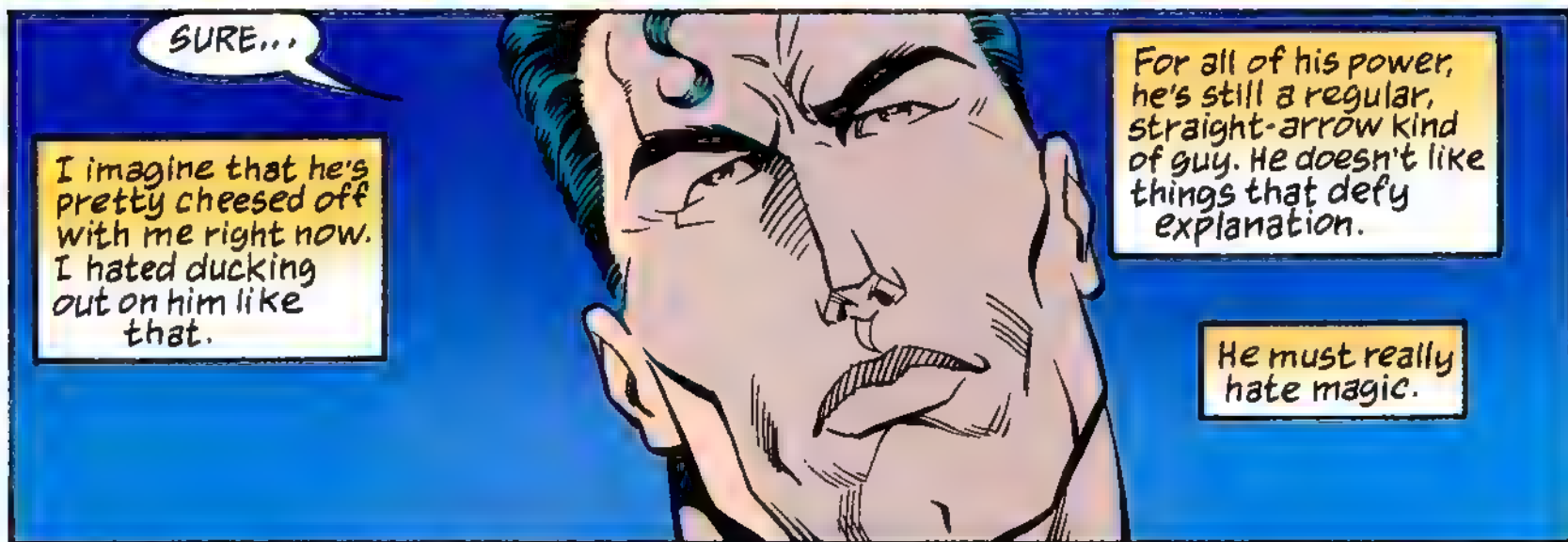


AND THAT "SEVEN" HE MENTIONED... WHO IN BLAZES ARE THEY? SOME SORT OF MYSTIC CULT?

... 'EY, I KNOW YOU. YER THAT SOOPERMAN GUY, AIN'TCHA?

EH? OH... YES. I AM.

CAN YA SPARE SOME CHANGE, MISTER? IT'S GETTIN' COLD, AN'... AN' I'M IN A BAD WAY. CAN YA HELP A FELLA OUT?

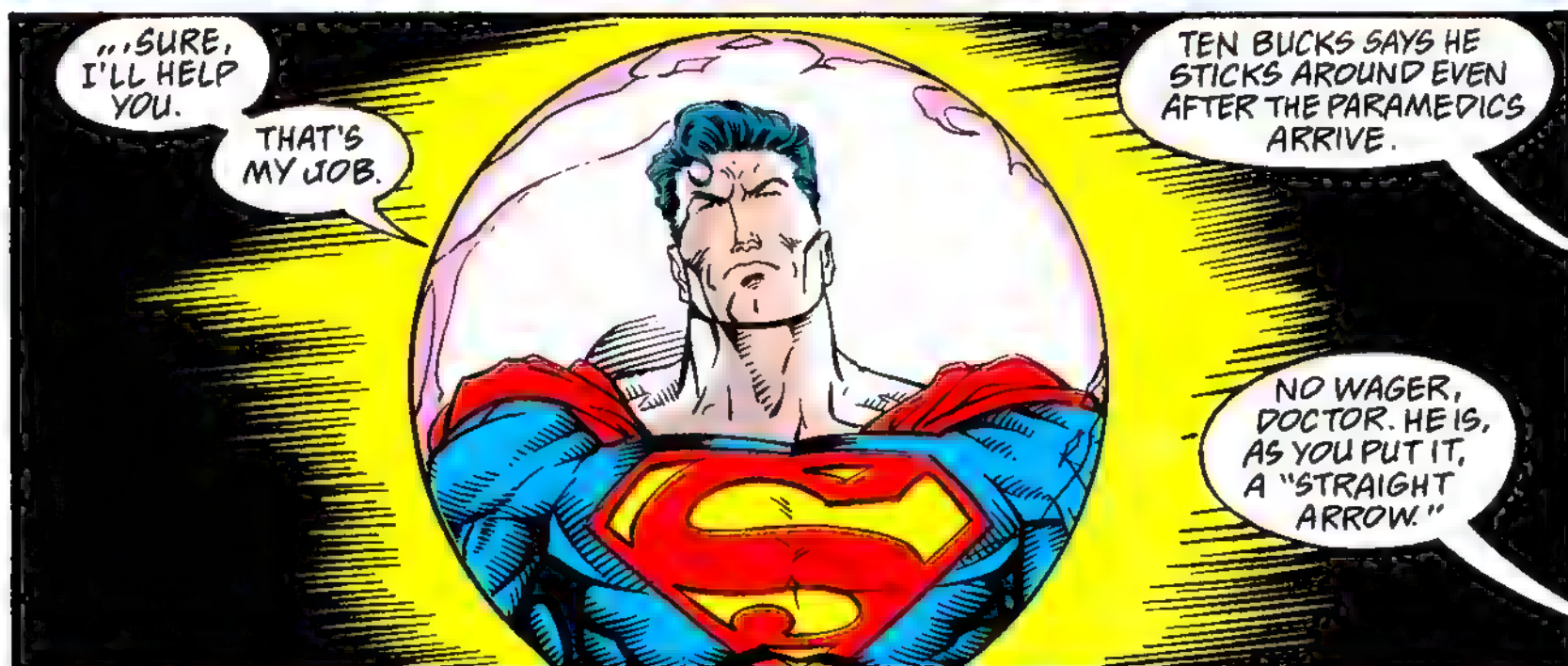


SURE...

I imagine that he's pretty cheesed off with me right now. I hated ducking out on him like that.

For all of his power, he's still a regular, straight-arrow kind of guy. He doesn't like things that defy explanation.

He must really hate magic.



... SURE, I'LL HELP YOU.

THAT'S MY JOB.

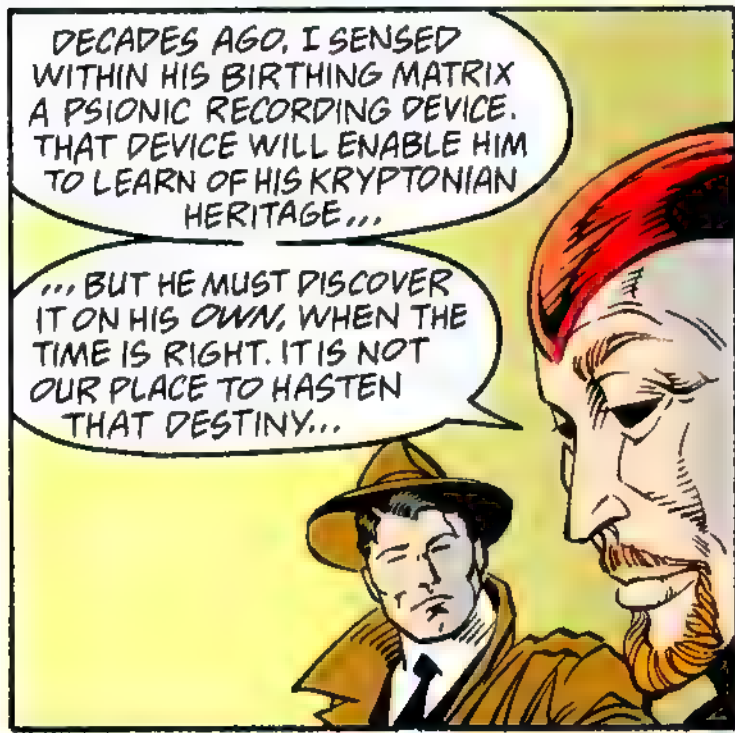
TEN BUCKS SAYS HE STICKS AROUND EVEN AFTER THE PARAMEDICS ARRIVE.

NO WAGER, DOCTOR. HE IS, AS YOU PUT IT, A "STRAIGHT ARROW."



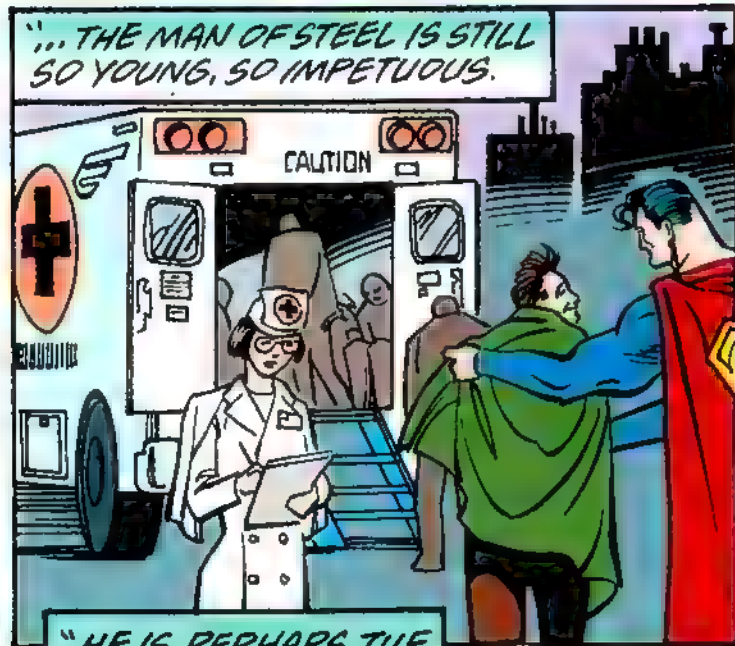
YEAH. SO WOULD IT REALLY HAVE HURT TO TELL HIM HIS ORIGINS? I MEAN, EVENTUALLY, HE WILL LEARN WHERE HE CAME FROM... WON'T HE?

I SHOULD THINK SO.



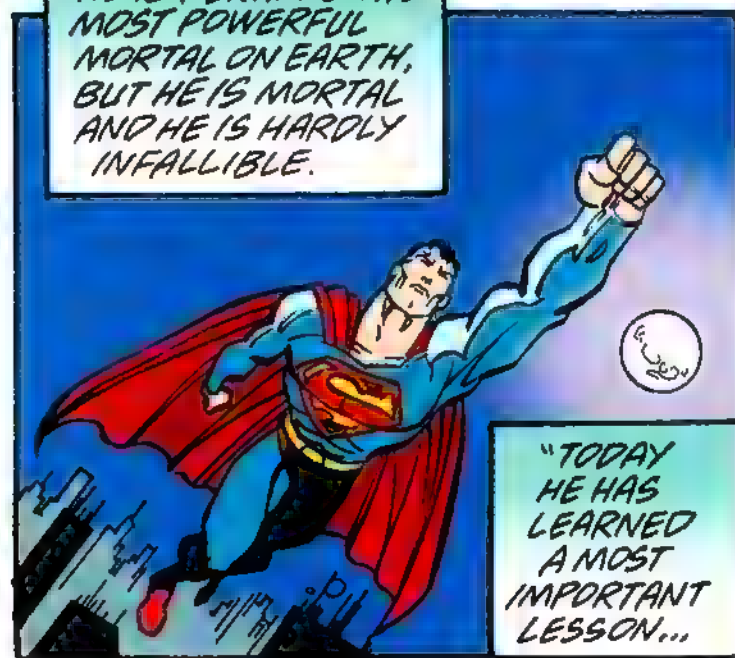
DECADES AGO, I SENSED WITHIN HIS BIRTHING MATRIX A PSIONIC RECORDING DEVICE. THAT DEVICE WILL ENABLE HIM TO LEARN OF HIS KRYPTONIAN HERITAGE...

... BUT HE MUST DISCOVER IT ON HIS OWN, WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT. IT IS NOT OUR PLACE TO HASTEN THAT DESTINY...



... THE MAN OF STEEL IS STILL SO YOUNG, SO IMPETUOUS.

"HE IS PERHAPS THE MOST POWERFUL MORTAL ON EARTH, BUT HE IS MORTAL AND HE IS HARDLY INFALLIBLE.



"TODAY HE HAS LEARNED A MOST IMPORTANT LESSON..."



"... HE HAS LEARNED THAT THERE ARE FORCES BEYOND HIS UNDERSTANDING, BEYOND EVEN HIS COMPREHENSION... FORCES MORE POWERFUL THAN HE.

"TODAY, HE HAS JOURNEYED FAR ALONG THE ROAD TO TRUE WISDOM..."

... A ROAD THAT CAN SEEM ENDLESS. MAY HIS TRAVELS TAKE HIM EVEN FARTHER.

AMEN TO THAT!

THE ADVENTURE BEGINS...



THERE'S A TOAST FRE-
QUENTLY OFFERED IN
IRISH PUBS, A WISH FOR
SAFE PASSAGE WHICH
BEGINS, "MAY THE ROAD
RISE UP TO MEET YOU."

BUT HERE ON A
LONELY ILLINOIS
TWO-LANE, THAT
ADAPAGE TAKES
ON BOLD NEW
MEANING--!

RRRUMMBLE

WHAT
THE--?!

BRAKE!
H-HIT THE
BRAKE--!

OUTTA
THE CAB,
PAL!

THIS
MOLECULAR
MANIPULATOR
DID A GOOD JOB
EXPANDING THAT
ASPHALT--

--AND
UNLESS YOU
HAND OVER YOUR
CARGO, IT'S GONNA
EXPAND YOUR SKULL
'TIL IT--

--POPS?

HI!

LOSS AND SPACE!

SUPERMAN: YEAR ONE

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DARICK ROBERTSON
PENCILLER
BRAD VANCATA
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LETTERER
PAT GARRAHY
COLORIST
CHRIS DUFFY
ASSISTANT EDITOR
MIKE CARLIN
EDITOR

WITH A TIP OF THE
CONCEPT CAP TO
BRETT BREERING

KRAK-
AK-
AK!

WHAT'S
UP?

I-IT'S THAT
SUPER-MAN! I
READ ABOUT HIM IN
THE PAPERS! HE'S A
SELF-STYLED
CRIMEFIGHTER OUT
IN METROPOLIS!

TH-THEN
WHAT THE HECK'S
HE DOIN' HERE?!

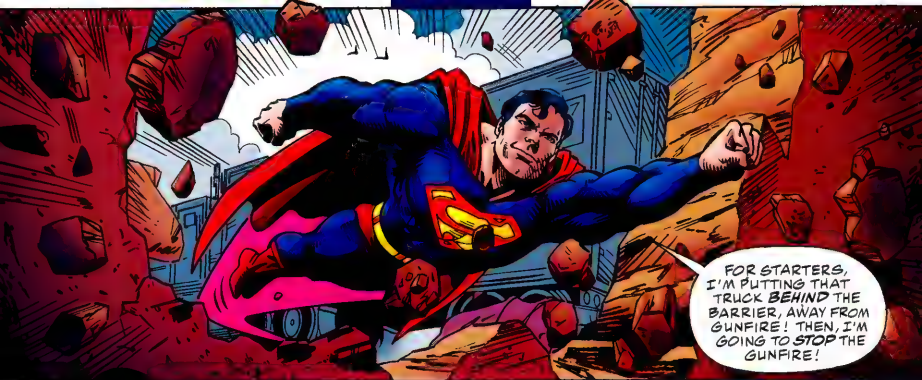
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SUPERMAN
Created by
JERRY SIEGEL
and
JOE SHUSTER



FOR STARTERS,
I'M PUTTING THAT
TRUCK BEHIND THE
BARRIER, AWAY FROM
GUNFIRE! THEN, I'M
GOING TO STOP THE
GUNFIRE!

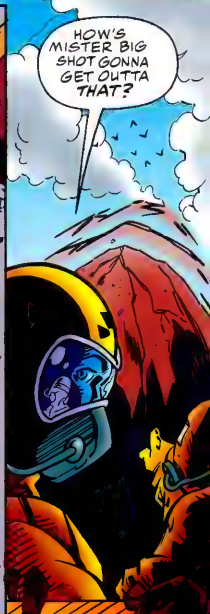


MOLECULE
BLASTER WORKED
FINE BEFORE! AN'
IT'LL DO THE
SAME NOW.

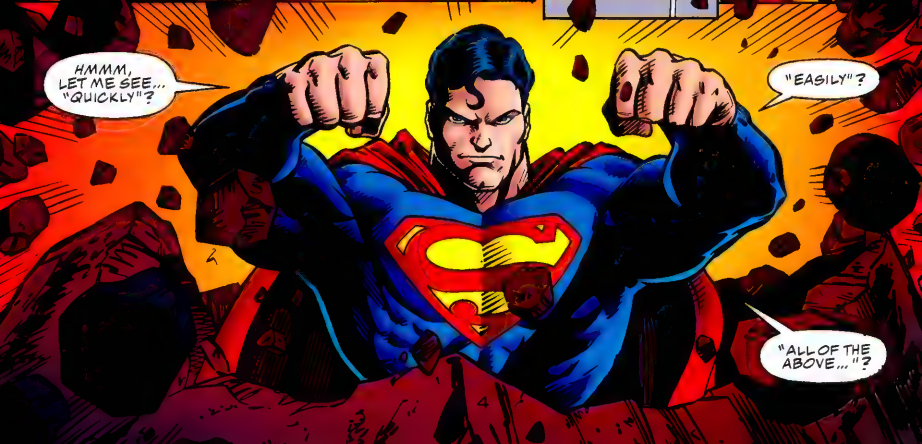
KRRRPPRRMM!



HA!



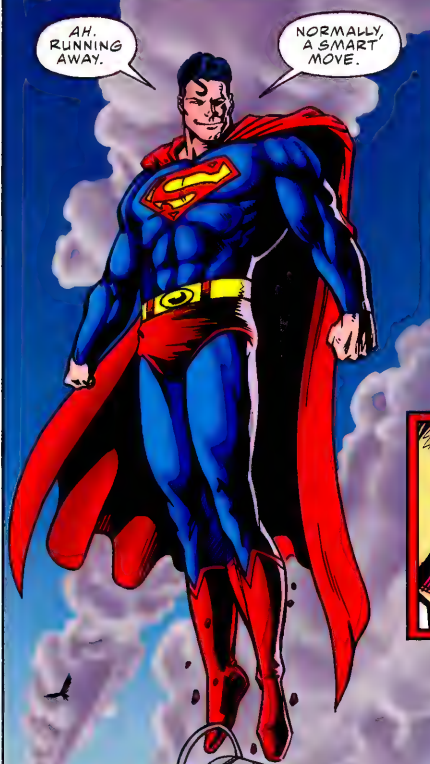
HOW'S
MISTER BIG
SHOT GONNA
GET OUTTA
THAT?



HMMM,
LET ME SEE...
"QUICKLY"?

"EASILY"?

"ALL OF THE
ABOVE... "?



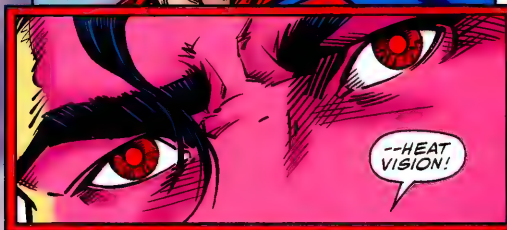
AH, RUNNING AWAY.

NORMALLY, A SMART MOVE.

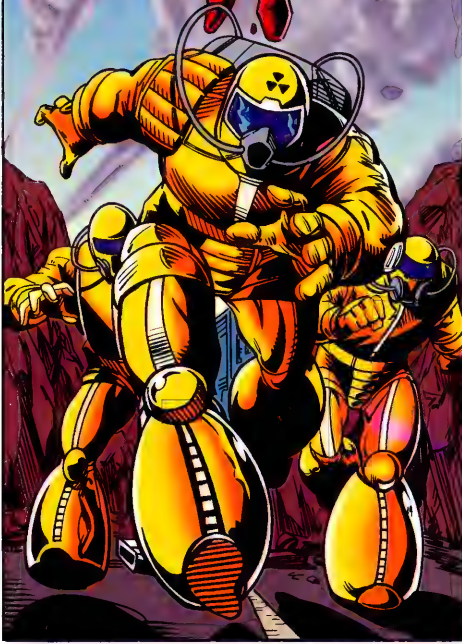


EXCEPT THAT I CAN MANIPULATE MOLECULES, TOO!

WITH A LITTLE THING CALLED--

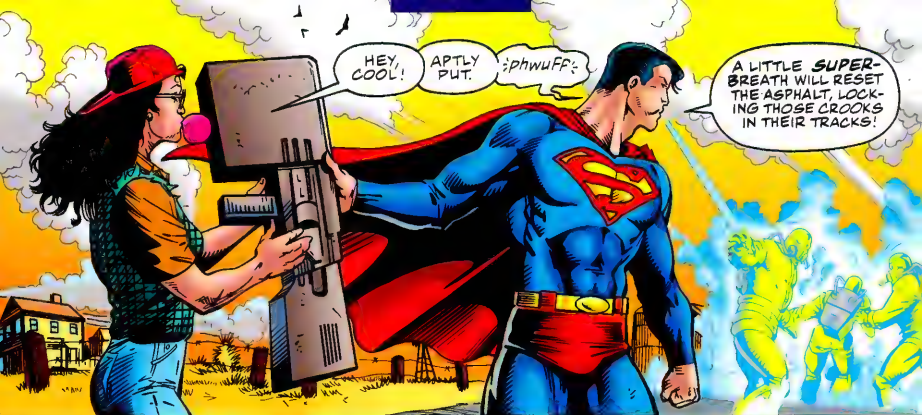


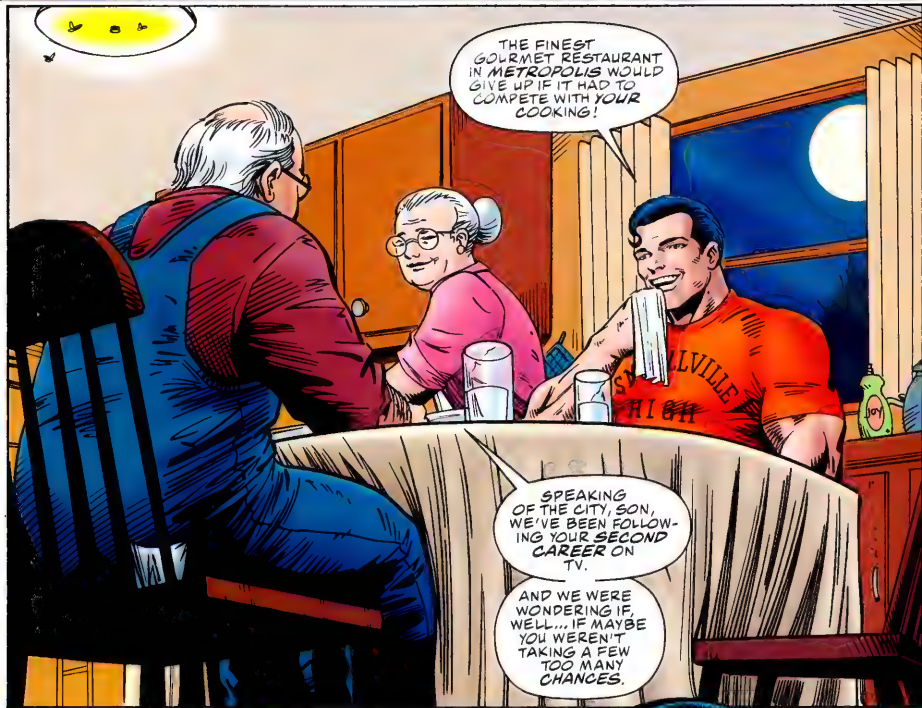
--HEAT VISION!



WHA--? P-PAVEMENT MELTED!

WE'RE STUCK IN THE GOOP!

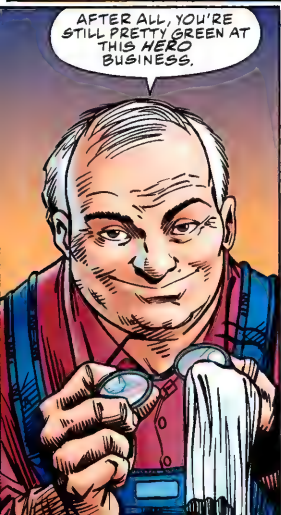




THE FINEST GOURMET RESTAURANT IN METROPOLIS WOULD GIVE UP IF IT HAD TO COMPETE WITH YOUR COOKING!

SPEAKING OF THE CITY, SON, WE'VE BEEN FOLLOWING YOUR SECOND CAREER ON TV.

AND WE WERE WONDERING IF, WELL... IF MAYBE YOU WEREN'T TAKING A FEW TOO MANY CHANCES.



AFTER ALL, YOU'RE STILL PRETTY GREEN AT THIS HERO BUSINESS.

C'MON, PA! ONCE I ACCEPTED THAT BULLETS ACTUALLY BOUNCE OFF ME, THAT FIRE CAN'T BURN ME, IT'S BEEN INCREDIBLY LIBERATING!

MOST OF THE THINGS I DO DON'T EVEN MAKE IT TO THE NEWS! WAIT'LL YOU HEAR ABOUT--

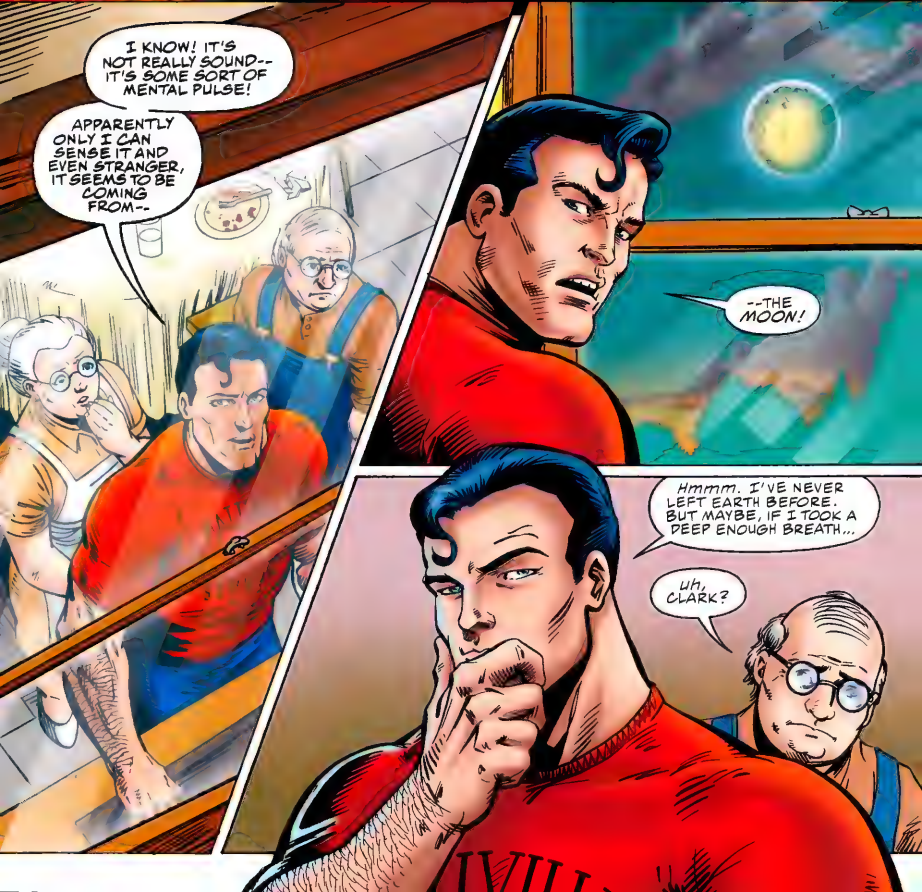




--AAAGGH!

TH-THAT NOISE--!

CLARK?
WHAT IS IT?
WE DON'T
HEAR ANY-
THING!



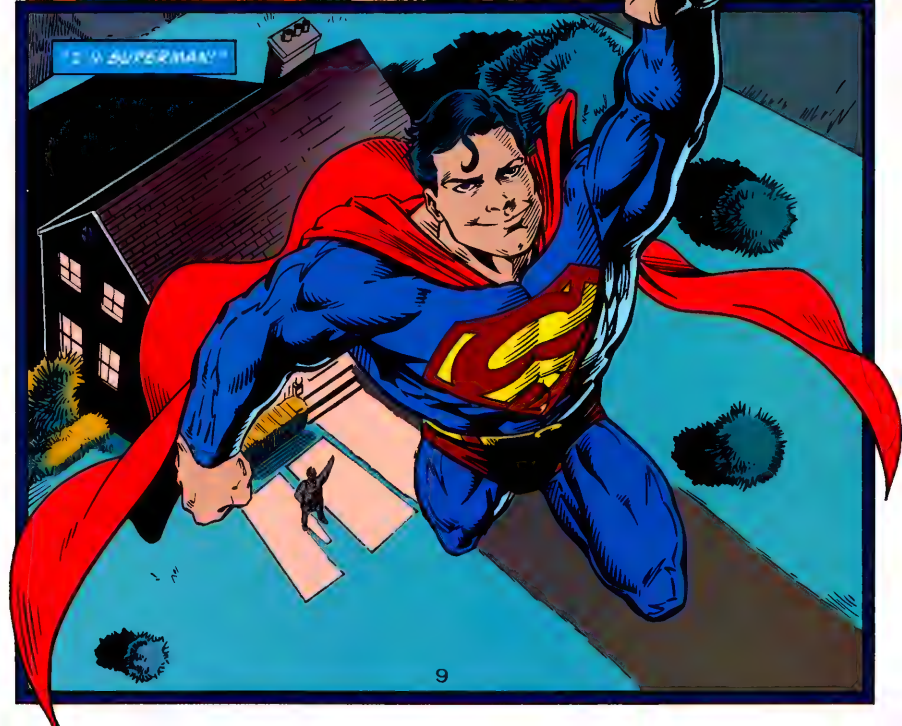
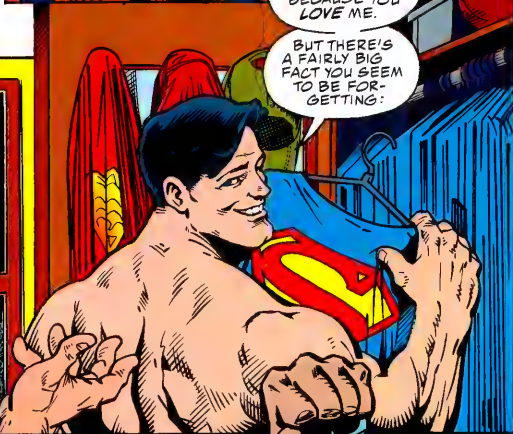
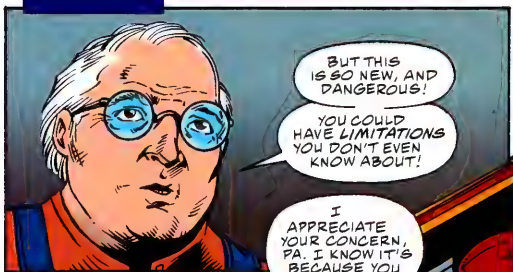
I KNOW! IT'S
NOT REALLY SOUND--
IT'S SOME SORT OF
MENTAL PULSE!

APPARENTLY
ONLY I CAN
SENSE IT AND
EVEN STRANGER,
IT SEEMS TO BE
COMING
FROM--

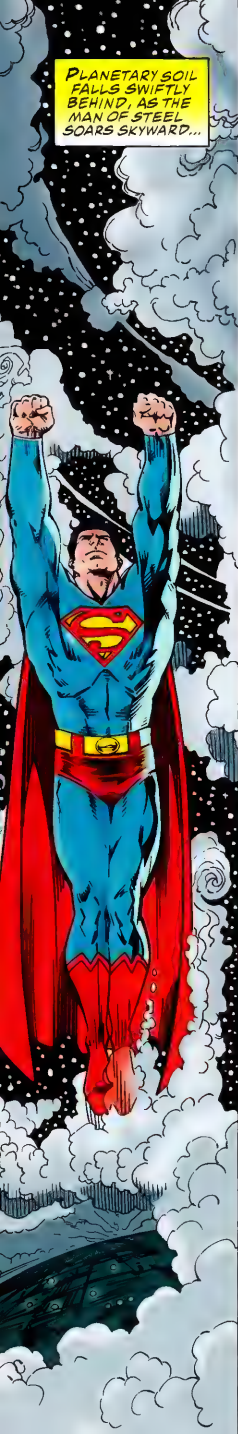
--THE
MOON!

Hmmm. I'VE NEVER
LEFT EARTH BEFORE.
BUT MAYBE, IF I TOOK A
DEEP ENOUGH BREATH...

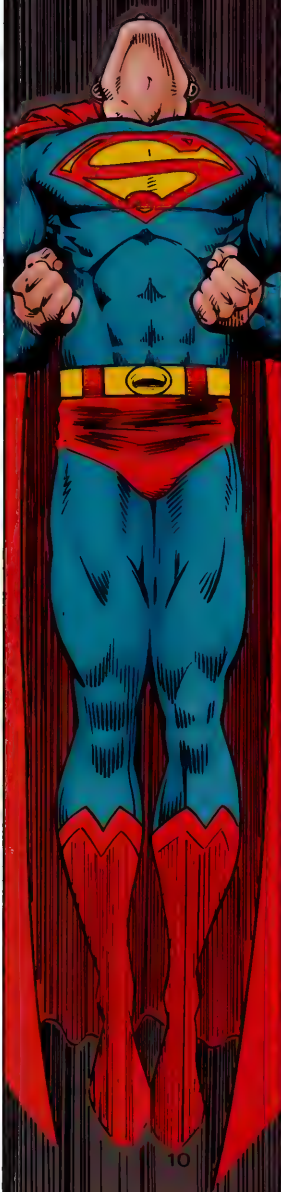
UH,
CLARK?



PLANETARY SOIL
FALLS SWIFTLY
BEHIND, AS THE
MAN OF STEEL
SOARS SKYWARD...



...PUSHING THE ATMOS-
PHERIC ENVELOPE, PUSH-
ING THE EDGE OF HIS OWN
FLEDGLING ABILITIES...



...UNTIL GRAVITATIONAL
BONDS STRAIN AND
SURENDER, CRACKLING
LIKE UNSEEN CORDS, AND
CLARK KENT IS TRULY--

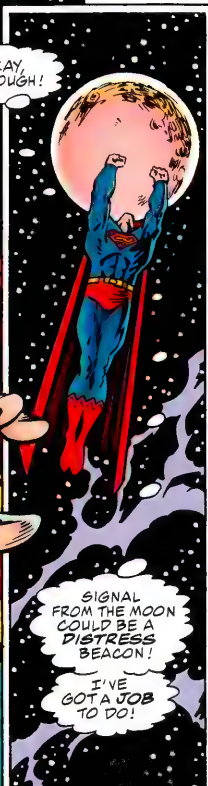


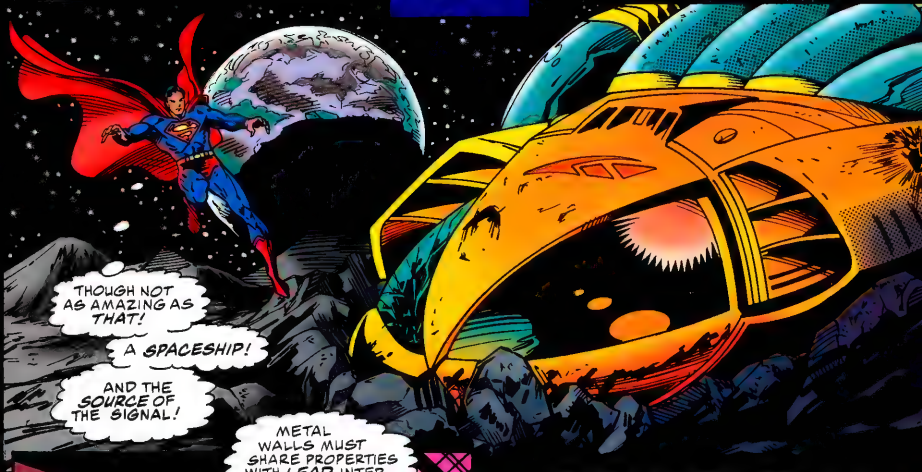
--FREE!

IN THAT INSTANT, HE KNOWS
PROFOUND PEACE, A SERENITY
PLANET-BOUND SOULS CAN
BUT DREAM OF.

AND IN THE SAME HEARTBEAT,
SUPERMAN--THOUGH HE HAS
YET TO LEARN THAT HE IS THE
LAST SON OF DISTANT KRYPTON
--KNOWS THERE ARE INFINITE
MEANINGS FOR THE WORD...
"HOME."







THOUGH NOT
AS AMAZING AS
THAT!

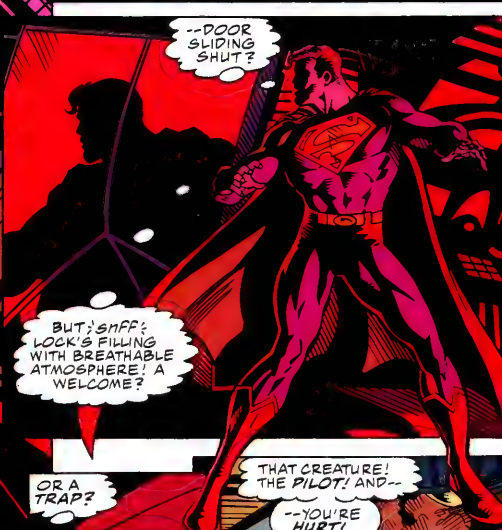
A SPACESHIP!

AND THE
SOURCE OF
THE SIGNAL!

METAL
WALLS MUST
SHARE PROPERTIES
WITH LEAD, INTER-
FERING WITH MY
X-RAY VISION!



IT'S LIKE
LOOKING
THROUGH
GAUZE!
AND--



--DOOR
SLIDING
SHUT?

BUT, SHUFF;
LOCK'S FILLING
WITH BREATHABLE
ATMOSPHERE! A
WELCOME?

OR A
TRAP?

PLEASE...
THERE'S
LITTLE
TIME!

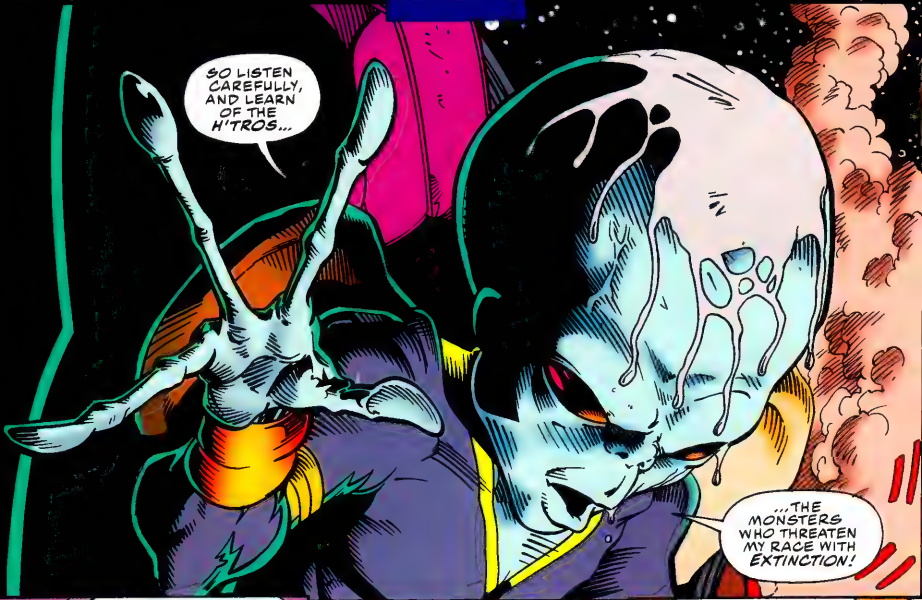
THAT CREATURE!
THE PILOT! AND--

--YOU'RE
HURT!

NO... I'M
DYING.

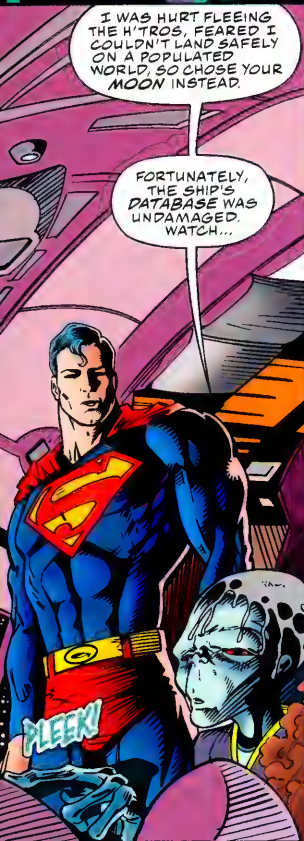


BUT THAT
WILL MEAN
NOTHING,
IF I DON'T
TELL MY
TALE FIRST!



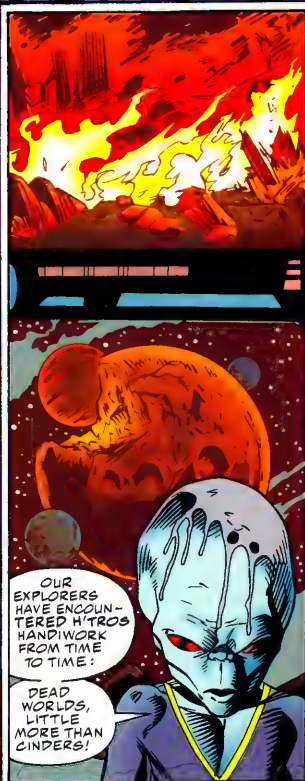
SO LISTEN
CAREFULLY,
AND LEARN
OF THE
H'TROS...

...THE
MONSTERS
WHO THREATEN
MY RACE WITH
EXTINCTION!



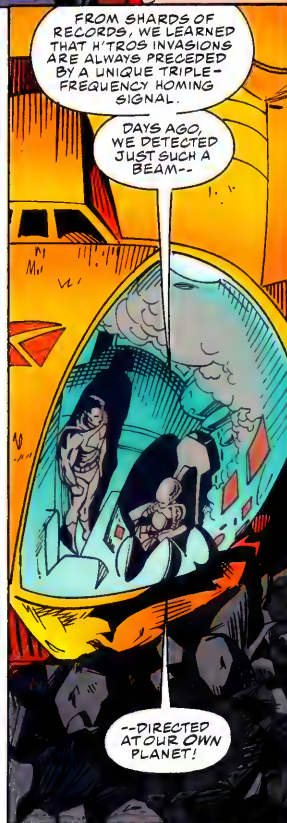
I WAS HURT FLEEING
THE H'TROS, FEARED I
COULDN'T LAND SAFELY
ON A POPULATED
WORLD, SO CHOSE YOUR
MOON INSTEAD.

FORTUNATELY,
THE SHIP'S
DATABASE WAS
UNDAMAGED.
WATCH...



OUR
EXPLORERS
HAVE ENCOUN-
TERED H'TROS
HANDWORK
FROM TIME
TO TIME:

DEAD
WORLDS,
LITTLE
MORE THAN
CINDERS!



FROM SHARDS OF
RECORDS, WE LEARNED
THAT H'TROS INVASIONS
ARE ALWAYS PRECEDED
BY A UNIQUE TRIPLE-
FREQUENCY HOMING
SIGNAL.

DAYS AGO,
WE DETECTED
JUST SUCH A
BEAM--

--DIRECTED
AT OUR OWN
PLANET!



BUT MY PEOPLE
ARE DEDICATED
PACIFISTS. WE'VE
NO WEAPONS, NO
MEANS OF
DEFENSE.

SO WE WERE
ENCOURAGED BY
TRANSMISSIONS
INTERCEPTED
FROM EARTH,
TELLING OF A
"SUPERMAN."



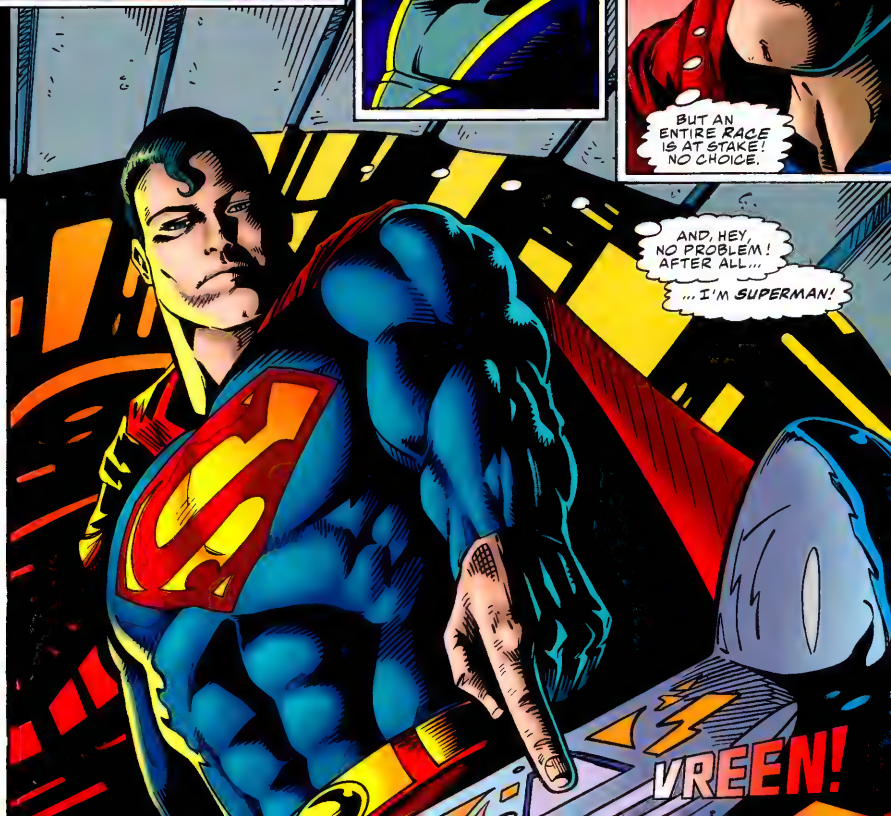
WE HOPED...
YOU'D BE OUR
CHAMPION. IF
SO... PRESS THAT
GLOWING BUTTON.
IF YOU CHOOSE
INSTEAD... TO IGNORE
OUR PLEA...

...WE
FORGIVE
YOU...?"



HE'S DEAD! BUT
WHAT NOW? THIS IS
THE FIRST TIME I'VE
BEEN OFF EARTH!
TO GO EVEN
FARTHER--!

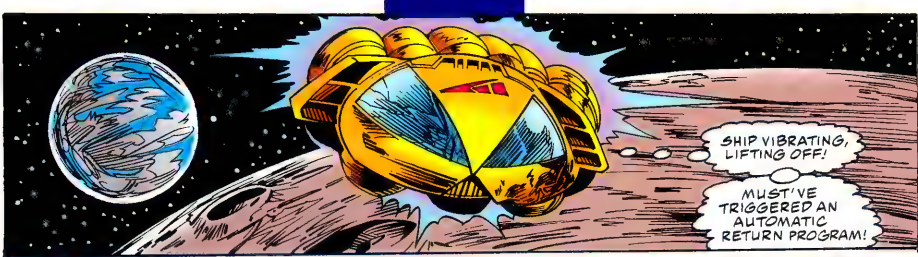
BUT AN
ENTIRE RACE
IS AT STAKE!
NO CHOICE.



AND, HEY,
NO PROBLEM!
AFTER ALL...

... I'M SUPERMAN!

VREEN!



SHIP VIBRATING,
LIFTING OFF!

MUST'VE
TRIGGERED AN
AUTOMATIC
RETURN PROGRAM!



STARS MELTING?!
NO! SHIP'S SPEEDING
UP... WARPING
SPACE?



AND NOW WE'RE IN ANOTHER
SOLAR SYSTEM! JUST LIKE
THAT! WOW.

SHOWS WHAT FOLKS
CAN DO WHEN THEY DON'T
CHANNEL ALL THEIR RESOURCES
INTO WAR!

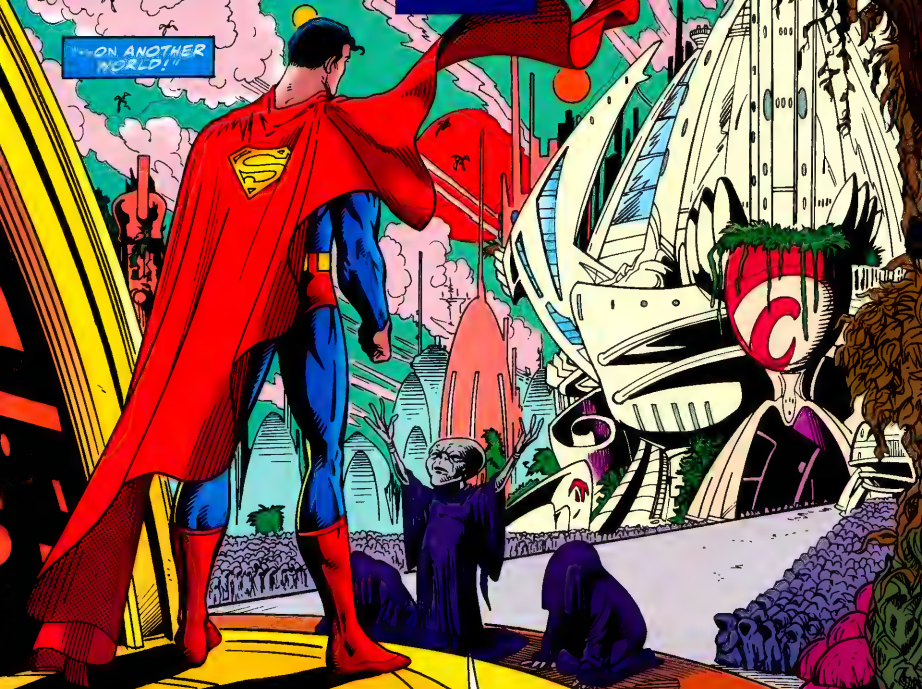


STARTING TO
DECELERATE,
ANGLING TOWARDS
THAT PLANET!
AND--

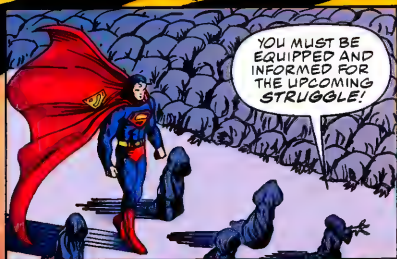
--I CAN SEE
STRUCTURES,
CITIES!

I DON'T
BELIEVE
IT.

I'M
ACTUALLY
GOING TO SET
FOOT--



ON ANOTHER
WORLD!

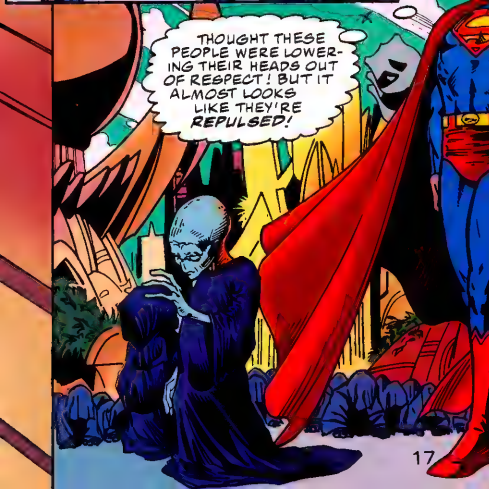


YOU MUST BE
EQUIPPED AND
INFORMED FOR
THE UPCOMING
STRUGGLE!

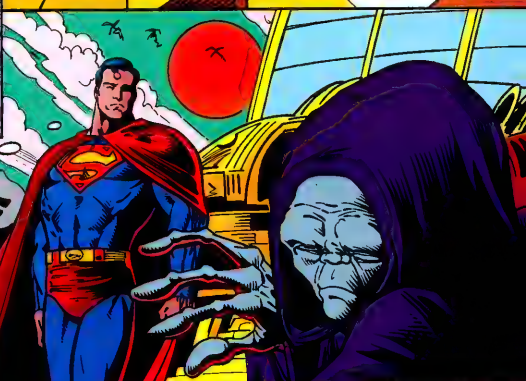
WELCOME,
SUPERMAN OF
EARTH!

TALES OF YOUR
SELFLESS COMMIT-
MENT WILL BE SUNG
IN OUR TEMPLES
FOREVER!

NOW COME,
THERE'S
LITTLE
TIME!



THOUGHT THESE
PEOPLE WERE LOWER-
ING THEIR HEADS OUT
OF RESPECT! BUT IT
ALMOST LOOKS
LIKE THEY'RE
REPULSED!



BECAUSE...
I'M A
CREATURE OF
VIOLENCE?

NICE.

MOMENTS
LATER...

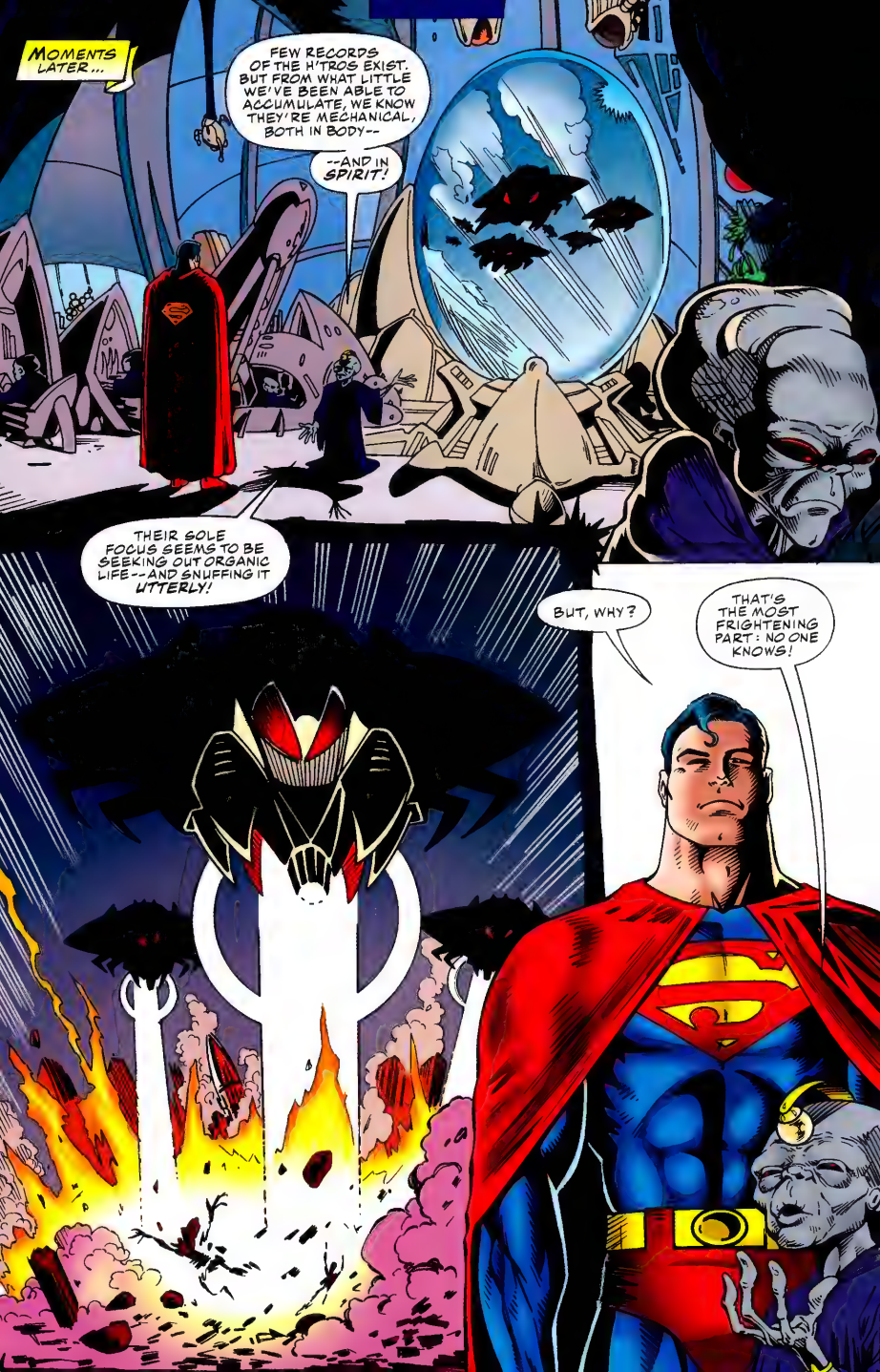
FEW RECORDS
OF THE H'TROS EXIST.
BUT FROM WHAT LITTLE
WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO
ACCUMULATE, WE KNOW
THEY'RE MECHANICAL,
BOTH IN BODY--

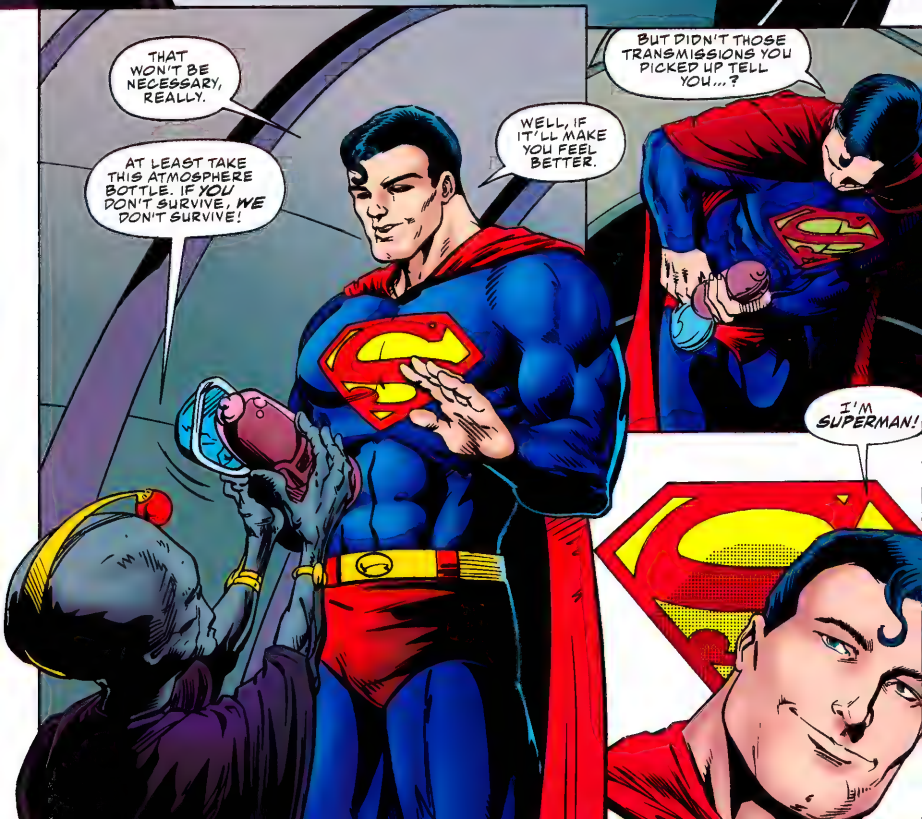
--AND IN
SPIRIT!

THEIR SOLE
FOCUS SEEMS TO BE
SEEKING OUT ORGANIC
LIFE--AND SNUFFING IT
UTTERLY!

BUT, WHY?

THAT'S
THE MOST
FRIGHTENING
PART: NO ONE
KNOWS!







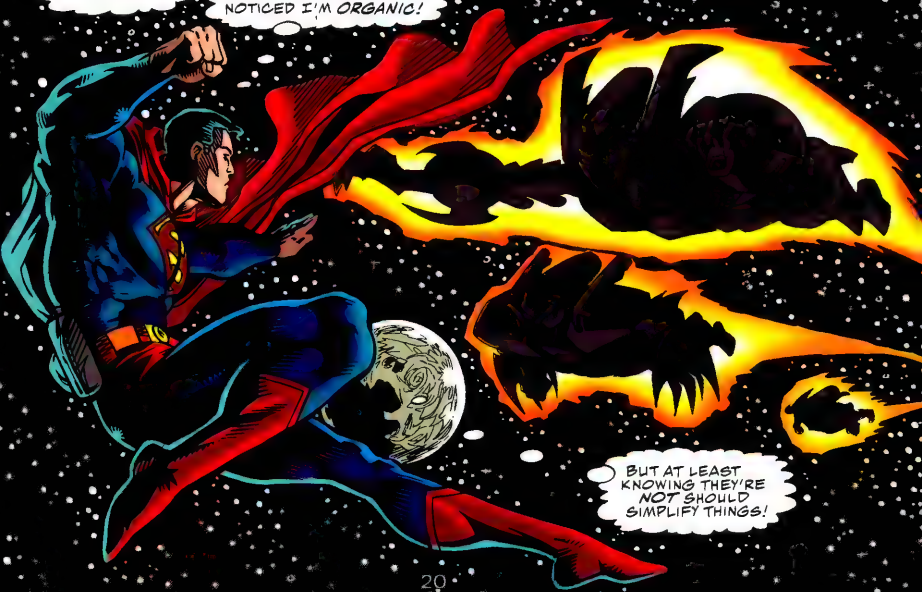
A DEEP
BREATH GOT ME
FROM EARTH TO
THE MOON OKAY.
STILL...

...I'D
BETTER END
THIS AS QUICKLY
AS I CAN!

WHOA. EASIER
SAID THAN
DONE!

MOTHER SHIP,
FIGHTER ESCORTS,
INDIVIDUAL
WARRIORS!

AND THEY'VE OBVIOUSLY
NOTICED I'M ORGANIC!



BUT AT LEAST
KNOWING THEY'RE
NOT SHOULD
SIMPLIFY THINGS!

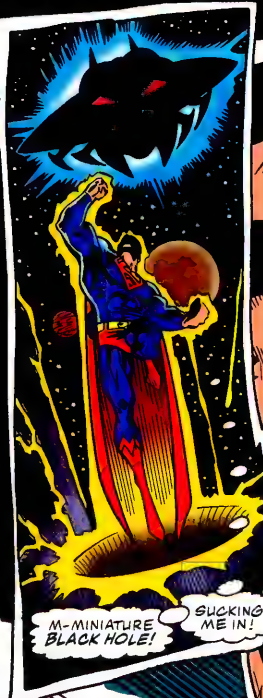


I WON'T
HAVE TO PULL MY
PUNCHES!

HNH?

THAT ONE
FIRED SOME
KIND OF
GRNADE!
GENERATING
A--

--HOLE?

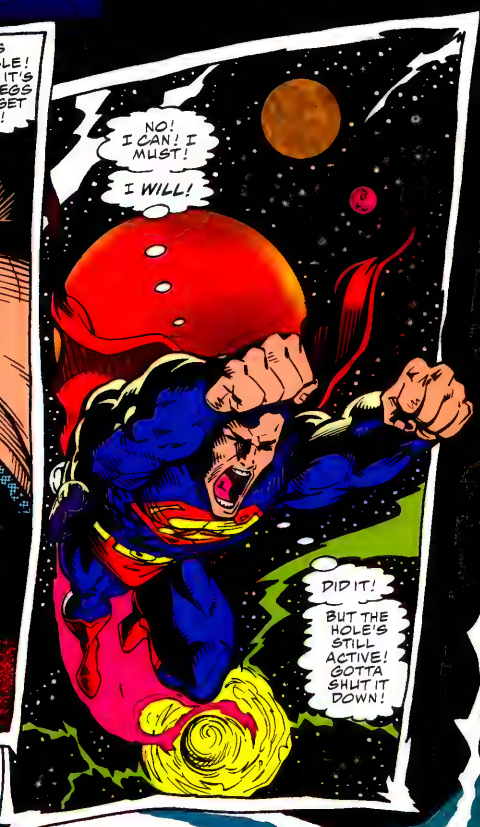


M-MINIATURE
BLACK HOLE!

SUCKING
ME IN!



PULL IS
INCREDIBLE!
F-FEEL LIKE IT'S
TEARING MY LEGS
OFF! CAN'T GET
LOOSE!

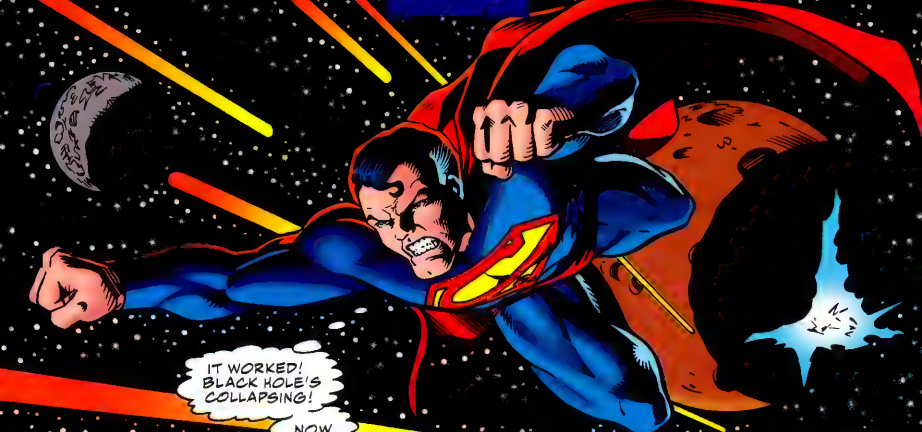


NO!
I CAN! I
MUST!
I WILL!

DID IT!
BUT THE
HOLE'S
STILL
ACTIVE!
GOTTA
SHUT IT
DOWN!



OR MAYBE...
PLUG IT
UP?



IT WORKED!
BLACK HOLE'S
COLLAPSING!

NOW
TO--



WHNG!:



SOME KIND
OF PARTICLE
BEAM! WITH A
KICK LIKE A
BOMB BLAST!

BEST
BET IS TO
SHOVE IT
UP THAT
ROBOT'S--



--ARM!

ALL RIGHT!
ENERGY BACK-
UP SHATTERED
THE CANNON!



AND I'LL
FINISH THE
JOB--



--PERSONALLY!

THAT
TAKES
CARE
OF--



--HUH? THE REST
ARE IGNORING ME,
HEADING FOR THE
ALIEN HOMEWORLD!
GOTTA STOP THEM
BEFORE--



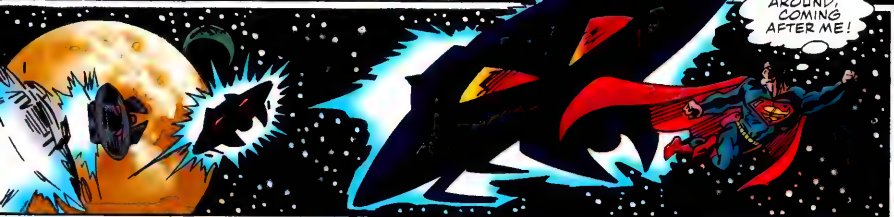
COULD THEY BE
USING THAT
KNOWLEDGE?
TRYING TO LURE
ME AWAY FROM--

--WAIT! THEY
KNOW I'M
PROTECTING THE
PLANET!



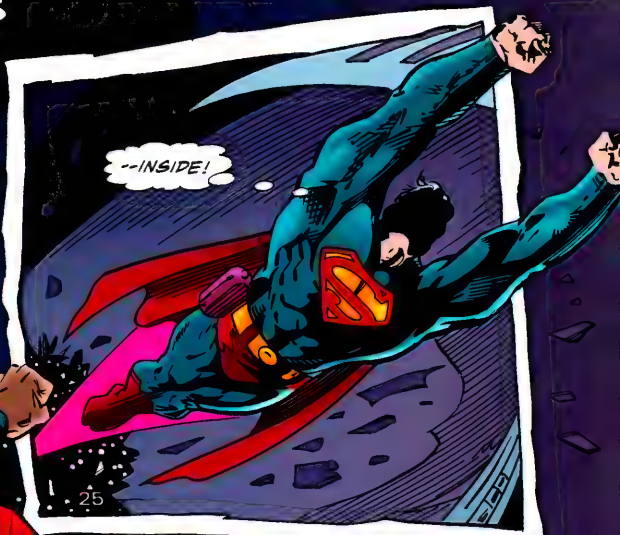
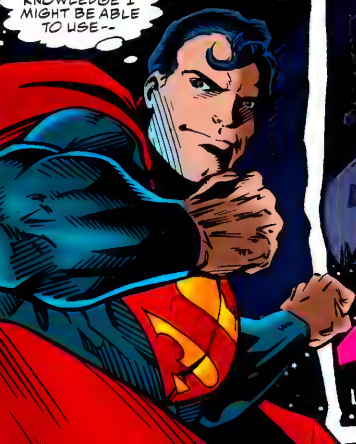
--THE
MOTHERSHIP?

YES! IT WAS
A BLUFF!
THEY'RE
TURNING
AROUND,
COMING
AFTER ME!



AS MACHINES, THEY FOLLOW
PREPROGRAMMED INSTRUCTIONS!
AND THEIR PRIME DIRECTIVE
MUST BE TO PROTECT THE
MOTHERSHIP!

THAT'S
KNOWLEDGE I
MIGHT BE ABLE
TO USE--



--INSIDE!



GUARD DRONES!
HUNDREDS OF
THEM!

AND THEY
SEEM TO BE
CONCENTRATING
AROUND--

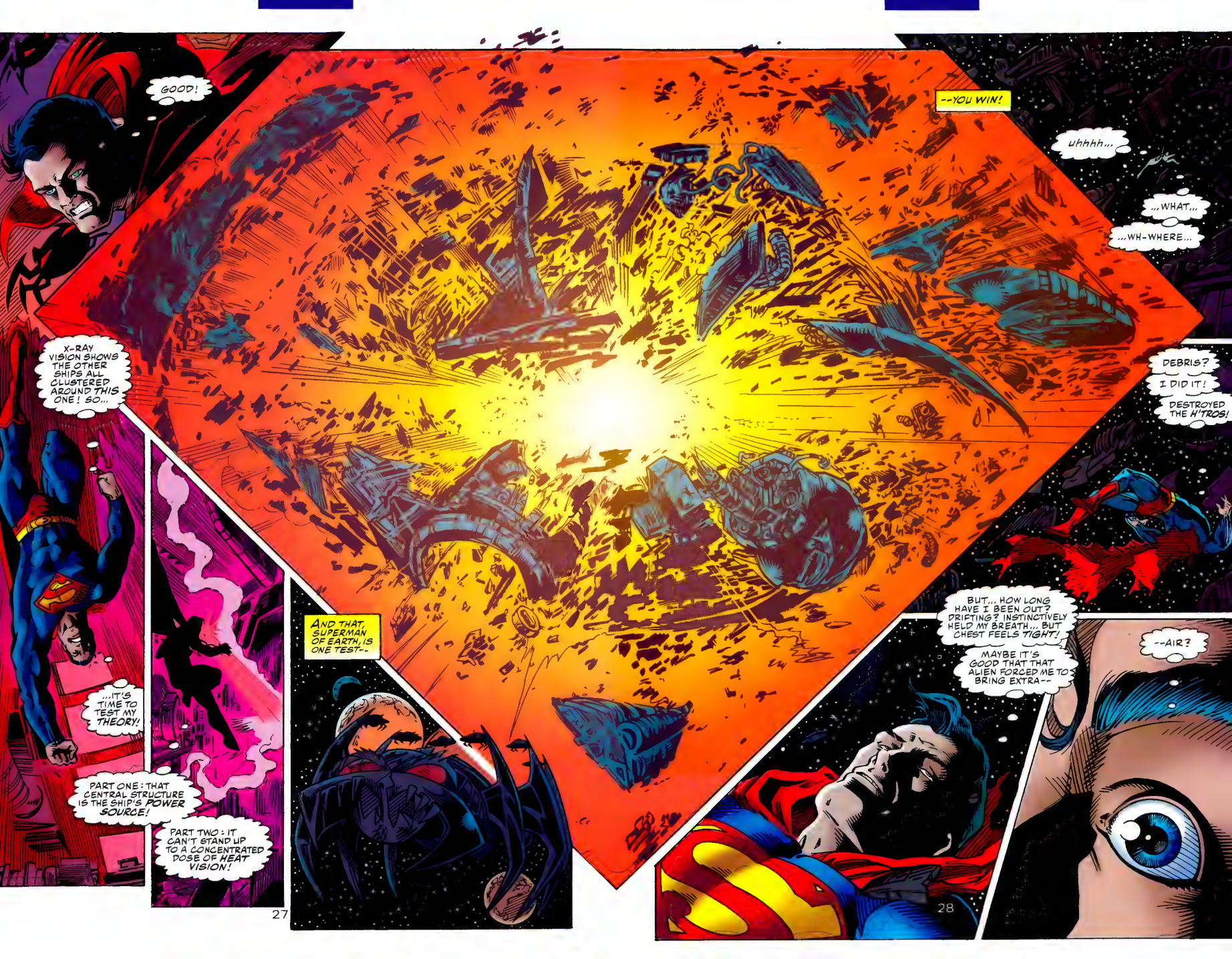
--THAT
PASSAGEWAY?

THAT'S WHAT
THEY'RE TRYING
TO PROTECT--

WHICH
MAKES
IT--

--MY PRIMARY--

--TARGET!



GOOD!

--YOU WIN!

uhhhh...

...WHAT...

...WH-WHERE...

X-RAY VISION SHOWS THE OTHER SHIPS ALL CLUSTERED AROUND THIS ONE! SO...

DEBRIS?
I DID IT!
DESTROYED THE H'TROS!

AND THAT, SUPERMAN OF EARTH, IS ONE TEST--

BUT... HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN OUT? DRIFTING? INSTINCTIVELY HELD MY BREATH... BUT CHEST FEELS TIGHT!

MAYBE IT'S GOOD THAT THAT ALIEN FORCED ME TO BRING EXTRA--

--AIR?

PART ONE: THAT CENTRAL STRUCTURE IS THE SHIP'S POWER SOURCE!

PART TWO: IT CAN'T STAND UP TO A CONCENTRATED POSE OF HEAT VISION!



ATMOSPHERE
BOTTLE GOT
CRUSHED IN THE
EXPLOSION!

BETTER
GET BACK TO
THE ALIEN
PLANET
BEFORE--!



IT... IT ISN'T THERE!
DETONATION PUSHED ME
TOO FAR AWAY BEYOND
THE RANGE OF MY TELE-
SCOPIC VISION!

I'M... LOST!



EASY, CLARK!
DON'T PANIC!
JUST PICK A
DIRECTION
AND--



--WAIT! WHAT IF
IT'S THE WRONG
DIRECTION?

I COULD
BE HEADING
FOR THE RIM
OF THE
GALAXY!



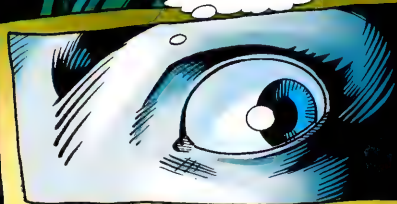
AND
ACCORDING TO
THE BIG BANG
THEORY THAT
RIM IS GETTING
FARTHER AWAY
EVERY
SECOND!



PA WAS RIGHT: I DO HAVE LIMITATIONS! I WAS JUST TOO SELF-SURE TO ADMIT IT!

BUT THIS CAN'T HAPPEN TO ME! I CAN'T DIE OUT HERE, ALONE IN A VACUUM! I... I'M...

...SUPERMAN.



OKAY! THAT ISN'T ENOUGH! I REALIZE IT NOW!

POWERS DON'T MEAN ANYTHING UNLESS THEY'RE BACKED WITH GOOD SENSE!

IF I FOLLOW THE DEBRIS TO WHERE IT'S CLOSEST TOGETHER, IT SHOULD LEAD ME BACK TO THE ALIEN SOLAR SYSTEM!



HAVE TO USE MY BRAIN! HMM, I GOT HERE BECAUSE OF AN EXPLOSION, JUST LIKE--

--THE BIG BANG? YES!

ACCORDING TO BASIC PHYSICS, DEBRIS FROM THAT BLAST SHOULD BE THICKER--

--THE CLOSER IT IS TO THE SITE OF THE EXPLOSION!



EASIER
SAID...THAN
DONE!

L-LUNGS
BLAZING!

DON'T
KNOW...HOW
MUCH
LONGER...

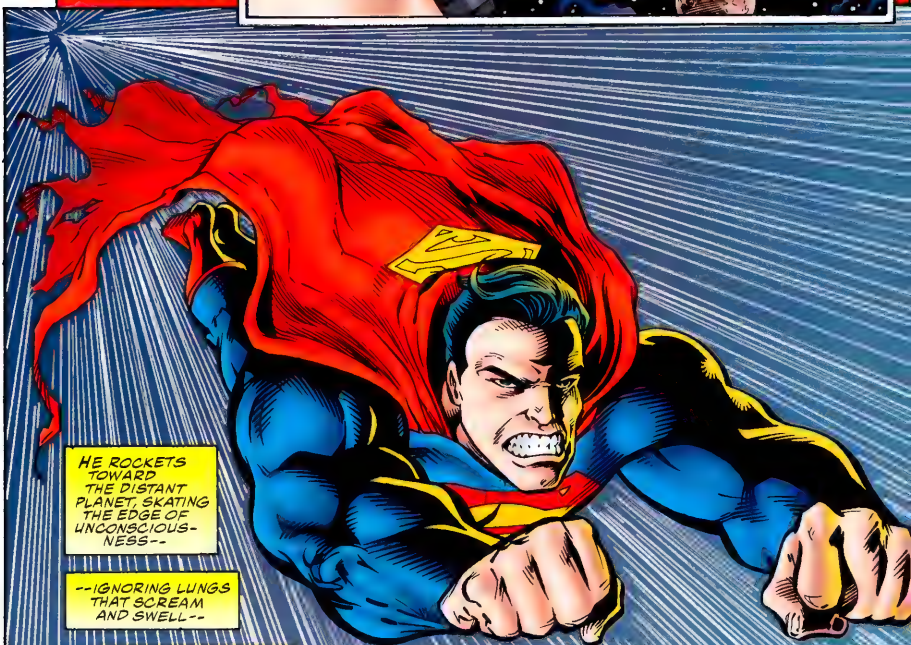


NO! I
CAN'T GIVE
UP!

I WON'T!



IS...IS THAT IT?
H-HARD TO TELL...THROUGH
THE SPOTS IN MY VISION!
ONLY...ONE CHANCE!
GOTTA...TAKE IT!

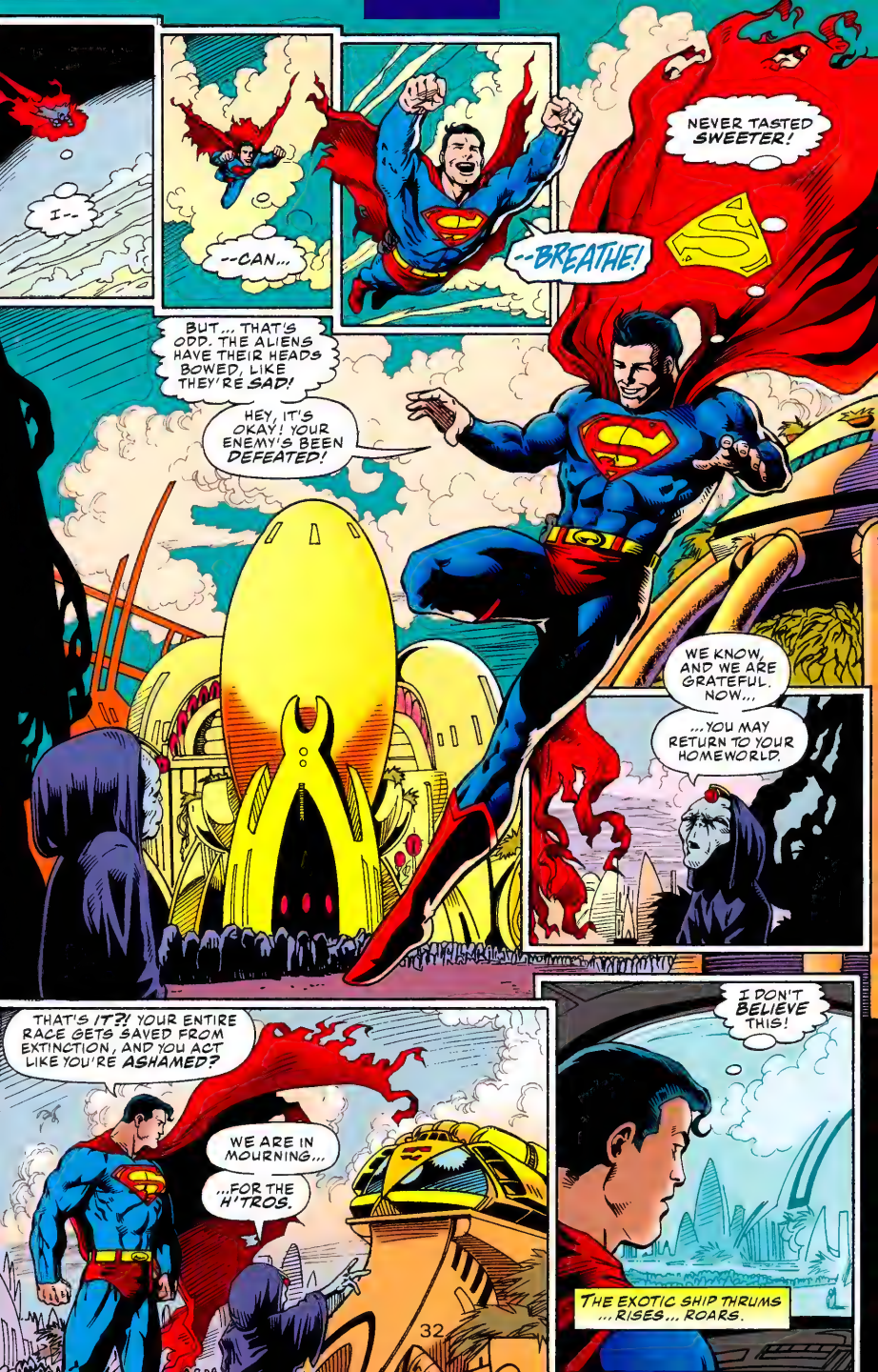


HE ROCKETS
TOWARD
THE DISTANT
PLANET, SKATING
THE EDGE OF
UNCONSCIOUS-
NESS--

--IGNORING LUNGS
THAT SCREAM
AND SWELL--

--FORCING HIMSELF
FORWARD AT A SPEED
GODS WOULD ENVY.

UNTIL AT LONG, TOO
LONG, LAST...



I--

--CAN...

--BREATHE!

NEVER TASTED SWEETER!

BUT... THAT'S ODD. THE ALIENS HAVE THEIR HEADS BOWED, LIKE THEY'RE SAD!

HEY, IT'S OKAY! YOUR ENEMY'S BEEN DEFEATED!

WE KNOW, AND WE ARE GRATEFUL. NOW...

...YOU MAY RETURN TO YOUR HOMELAND.

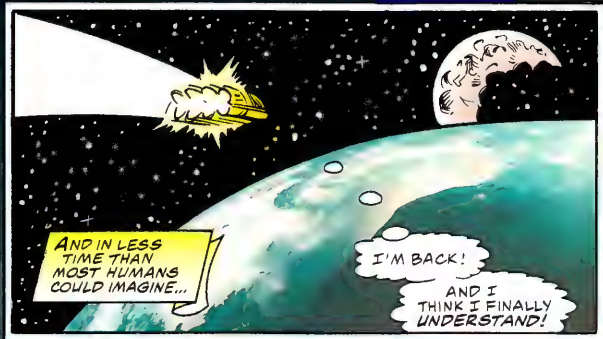
THAT'S IT?! YOUR ENTIRE RACE GETS SAVED FROM EXTINCTION, AND YOU ACT LIKE YOU'RE ASHAMED?

WE ARE IN MOURNING...

...FOR THE H'TROS.

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!

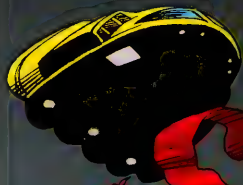
THE EXOTIC SHIP THRUMS ... RISES ... ROARS.



AND IN LESS
TIME THAN
MOST HUMANS
COULD IMAGINE...

I'M BACK!

AND I
THINK I FINALLY
UNDERSTAND!



THOSE
ALIENS WERE
JUST BEING TRUE
TO THEIR PACIFIST
NATURE--

--TRUE TO
THEMSELVES!

SO
DIFFERENT FROM
WHAT I'M USED
TO. BUT I GUESS
NO MATTER HOW
MUCH I LEARN--



--WHAT I DON'T
KNOW WILL STILL
BE AS INFINITE AS
THE UNIVERSE!



AND, DAYS LATER
IN METROPOLIS...



EARTH TO KENT!
EARTH TO KENT!



hnh?

BETTER GET ON
THE BALL, KENT!
PERRY GAVE ME
THE AFTERNOON
LEAD AGAIN!

YOU JUST
HAVEN'T BEEN
YOURSELF
LATELY!



BEEN SPENDING
YOUR EVENINGS
TRYING FICTION
AGAIN?



FICTION?
NO.

FAR
FROM
IT.



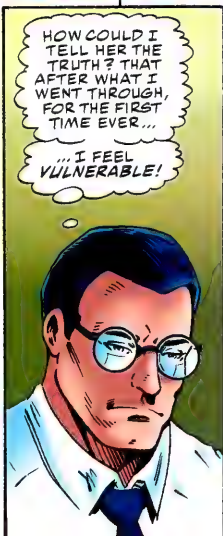
I'VE, uh, JUST
HAD TROUBLE
SLEEPING, LOIS.
THAT'S ALL.

HOPE YOU SNAP
OUT OF IT
SOON.

I MISS THE
COMPETITION!

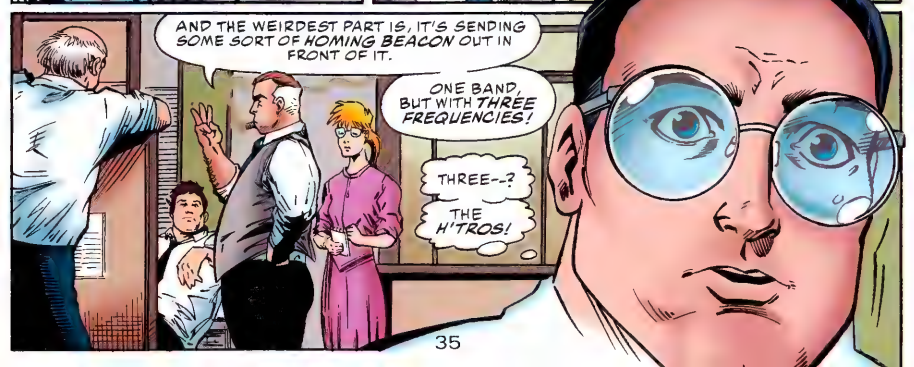
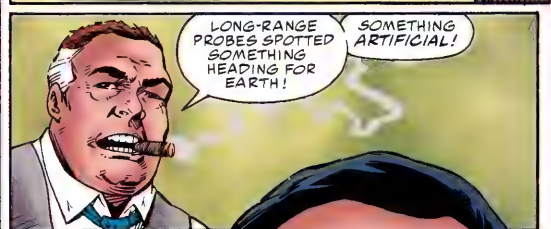


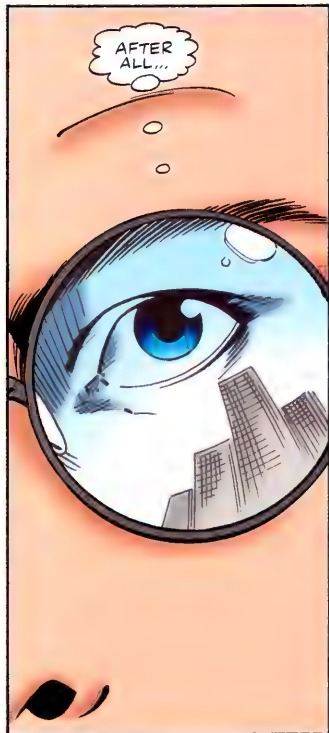
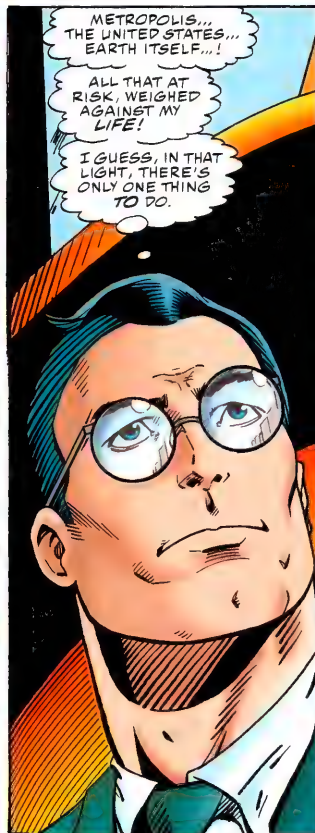
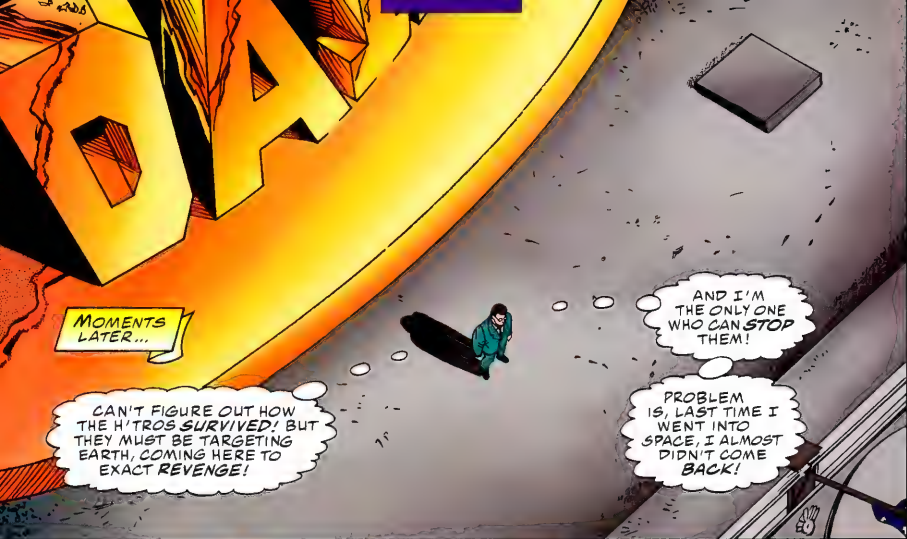
SEE YOU
IN THE FUNNY
PAPERS!

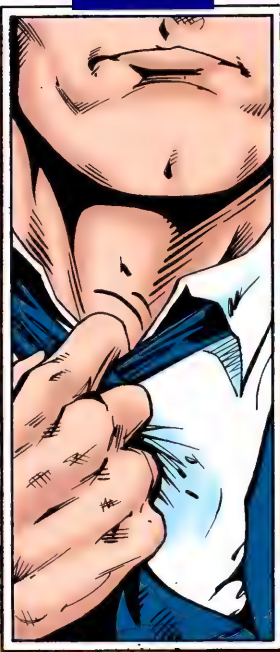


HOW COULD I
TELL HER THE
TRUTH? THAT
AFTER WHAT I
WENT THROUGH,
FOR THE FIRST
TIME EVER ...

... I FEEL
VULNERABLE!







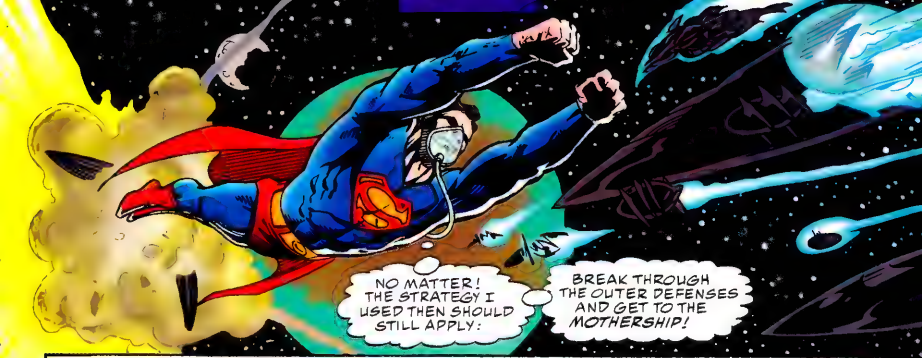
AND, SHORTLY...

AT LEAST I
LEARNED FROM MY
MISTAKES! TOOK TIME
TO SWING BY S.T.A.R.
LABS TO BORROW A
BREATHING MASK!

AND JUST
IN TIME,
APPARENTLY!

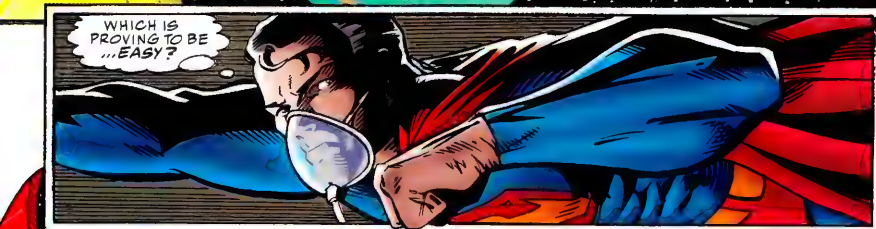
THE H'TROS
ARMADA! BUT
SHIPS LOOK
DIFFERENT!
COULD THAT
MEAN --

--THE ONES I
BATTLED BEFORE
WERE DESTROYED?
THIS IS ANOTHER
INVASION FLEET?

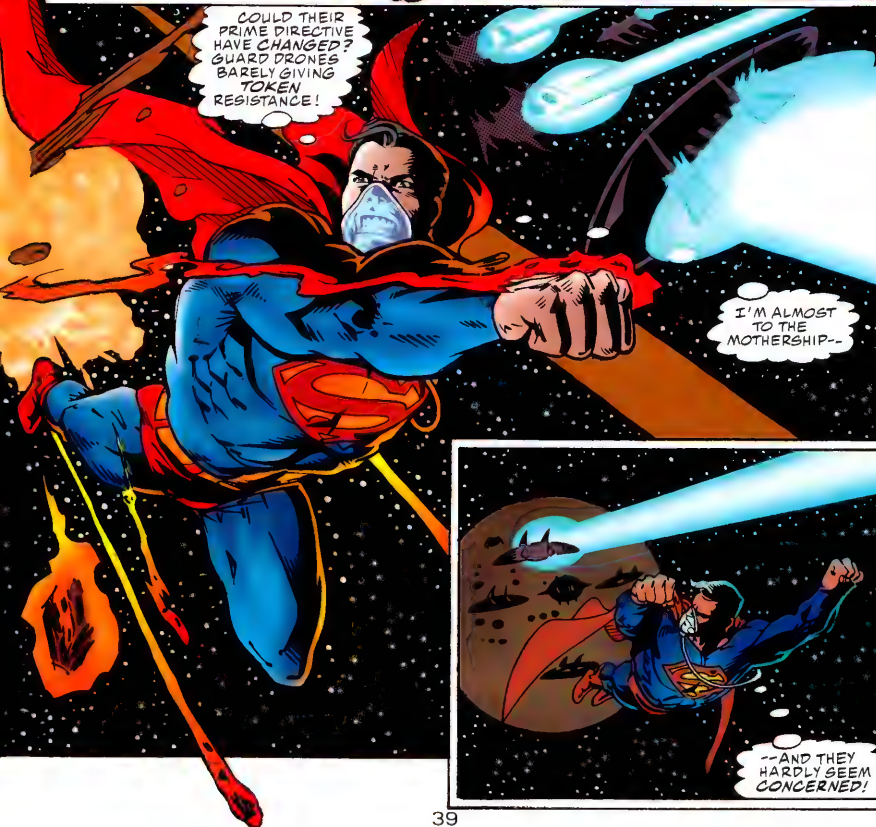


NO MATTER!
THE STRATEGY I
USED THEN SHOULD
STILL APPLY:

BREAK THROUGH
THE OUTER DEFENSES
AND GET TO THE
MOTHERSHIP!

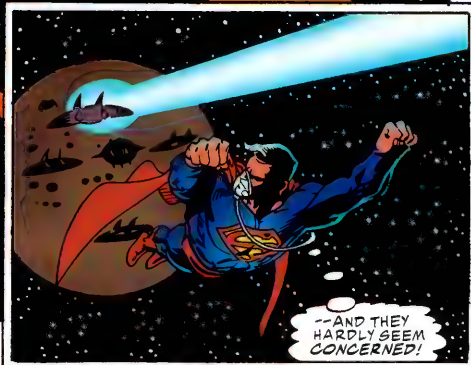


WHICH IS
PROVING TO BE
...EASY?



COULD THEIR
PRIME DIRECTIVE
HAVE CHANGED?
GUARD DRONES
BARELY GIVING
TOKEN
RESISTANCE!

I'M ALMOST
TO THE
MOTHERSHIP--



--AND THEY
HARDLY SEEM
CONCERNED!



SO MAYBE I'LL
JUST GIVE THEM
SOMETHING TO BE
CONCERNED--

--ABOUT!

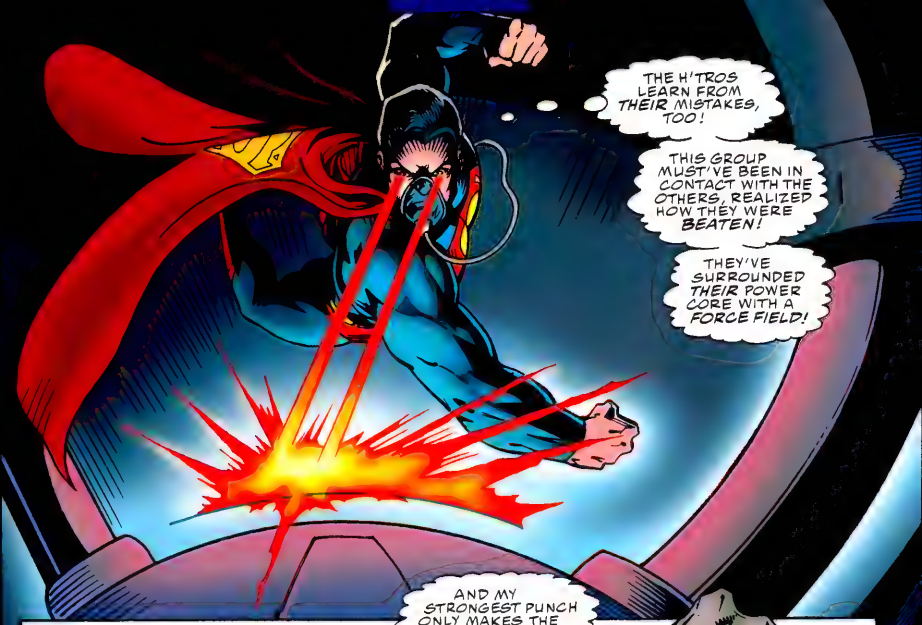
X-RAY
VISION'S
PINPOINTED
THE POWER
CORE! BUT--

--NO
INTERIOR
DEFENSES?
NONE AT
ALL?!

SOME-
THING'S WRONG!
VERY WRONG!
BETTER TAKE THE
CORE OUT WITH
HEAT VISION,
FAST! THEN--

--NO!

NOW I
KNOW WHY
THEY WEREN'T
WORRIED!

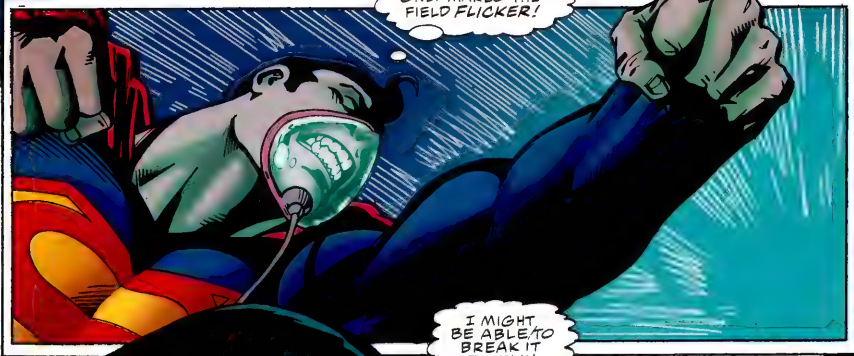


THE H'TROS
LEARN FROM
THEIR MISTAKES,
TOO!

THIS GROUP
MUST'VE BEEN IN
CONTACT WITH THE
OTHERS, REALIZED
HOW THEY WERE
BEATEN!

THEY'VE
SURROUNDED
THEIR POWER
CORE WITH A
FORCE FIELD!

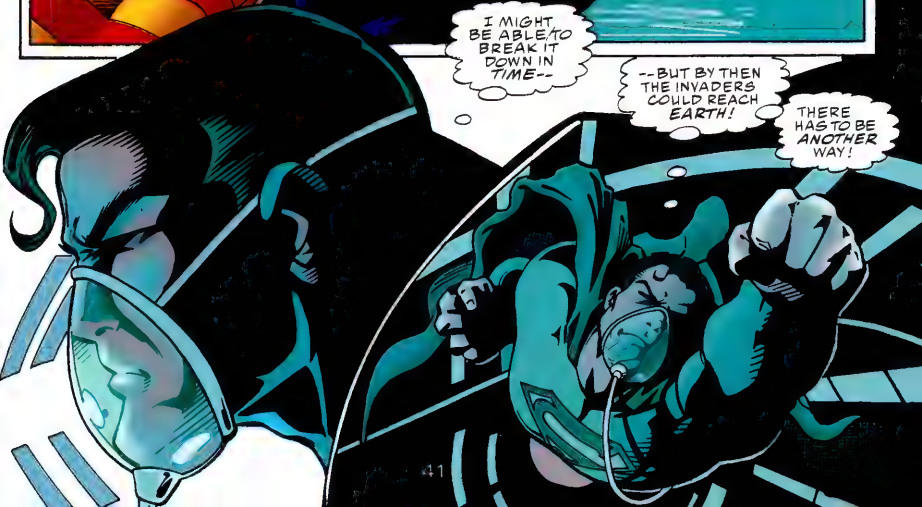
AND MY
STRONGEST PUNCH
ONLY MAKES THE
FIELD FLICKER!



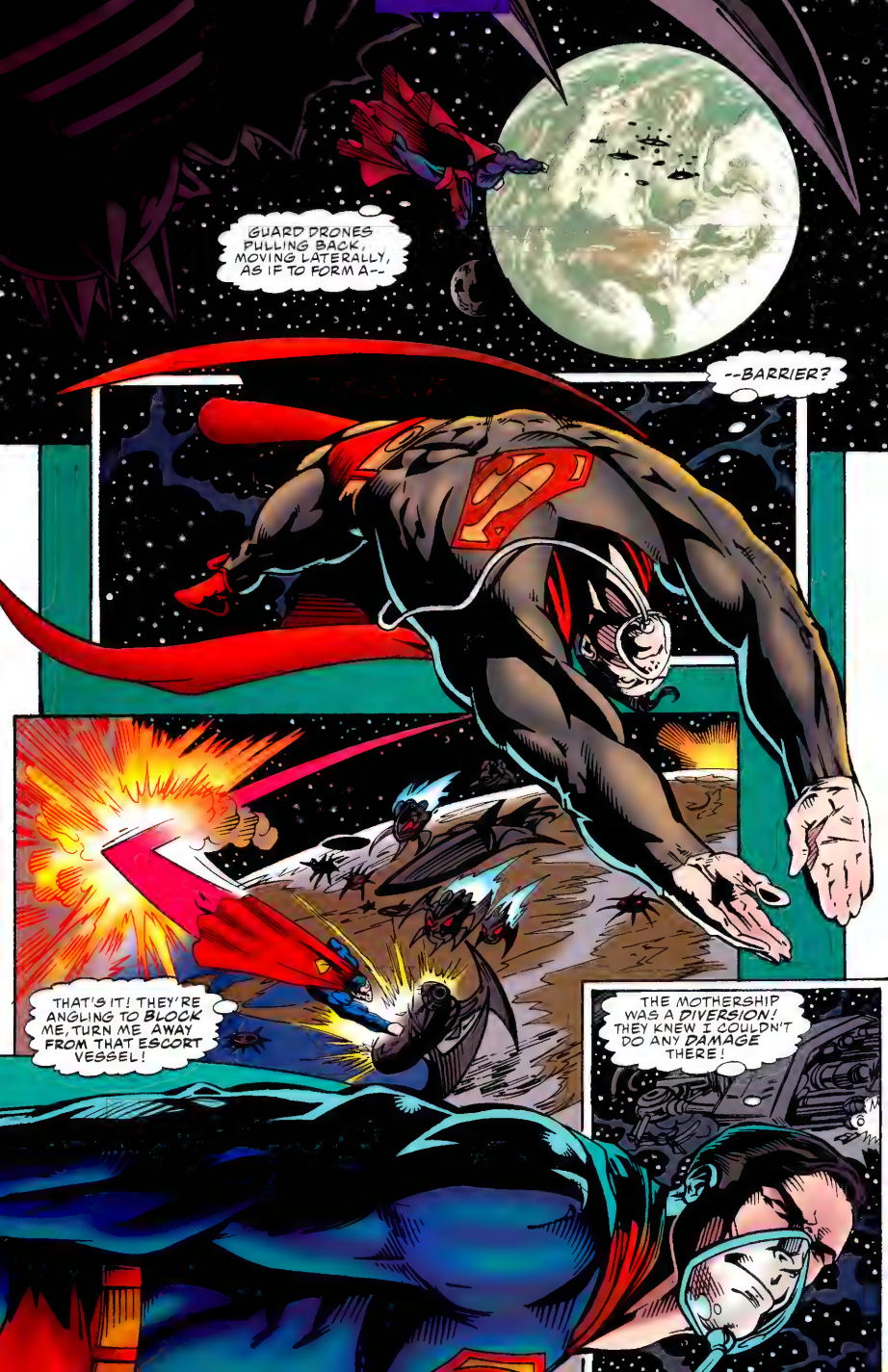
I MIGHT
BE ABLE TO
BREAK IT
DOWN IN
TIME--

--BUT BY THEN
THE INVADERS
COULD REACH
EARTH!

THERE
HAS TO BE
ANOTHER
WAY!





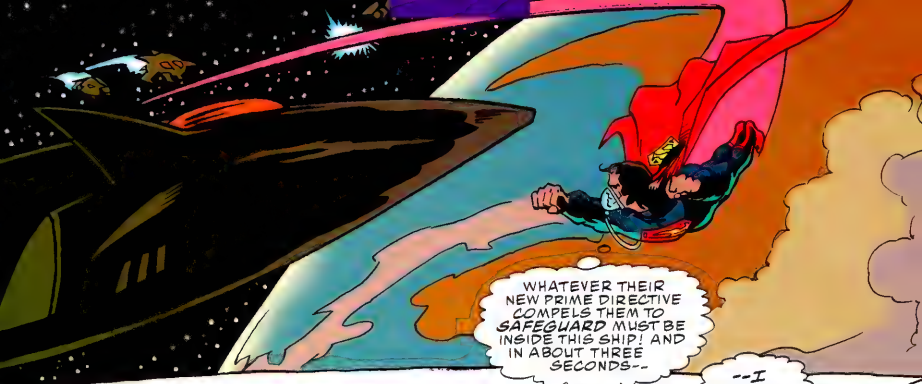


GUARD DRONES
PULLING BACK,
MOVING Laterally,
AS IF TO FORM A--

--BARRIER?

THAT'S IT! THEY'RE
ANGLING TO BLOCK
ME, TURN ME AWAY
FROM THAT ESCORT
VESSEL!

THE MOTHERSHIP
WAS A DIVERSION!
THEY KNEW I COULDN'T
DO ANY DAMAGE
THERE!



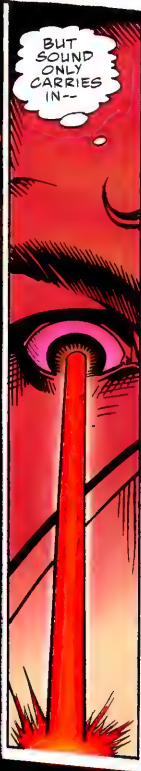
WHATEVER THEIR
NEW PRIME DIRECTIVE
COMPELS THEM TO
SAFEGUARD MUST BE
INSIDE THIS SHIP! AND
IN ABOUT THREE
SECONDS--

--I
WILL BE,
TOO!



SEALING THE
BREACH SHOULD
SLOW PURSUIT.
BUY ME EXTRA
SECONDS TO
FIND... WAIT!

I CAN
HEAR THE METAL
MELTING?



BUT
SOUND
ONLY
CARRIES
IN--



--ATMOSPHERE!



A HEARTBEAT!

AND SURE-
HEARING IS PICKING
UP SOMETHING ELSE
THAT SHOULDN'T BE
ON A ROBOT
CRAFT:



IT'S AN ALIEN!
A DIFFERENT
ONE!

DON'T WORRY,
I WON'T LET
THOSE MECHANICALS
HURT YOU!

FOOL!
THEY AREN'T
MY CAPTORS!



THEY'RE MY
CHILDREN!

MY PLANET SUFFERED
WAR FOR CENTURIES! AS AN
INVENTOR, I USED MY SKILL TO
HELP END THAT ABOMINATION,
BY CREATING THE H'TROS!

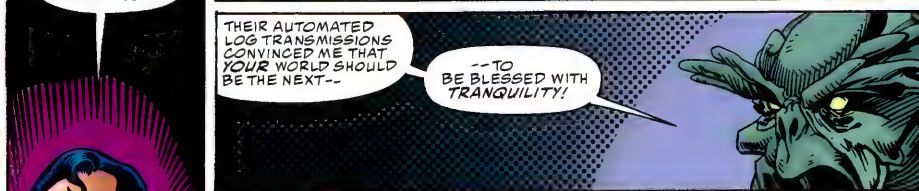


A WORD THAT MEANS
..."PEACEMAKERS"!

PEACE?
YOU CALL THE
ANNIHILATION OF
ENTIRE RACES
PEACE?!

ONLY LIVING
THINGS MAKE WAR!
ELIMINATE THEM, AND
WAR WILL END!

THE ARMY YOU
DECIMATED DAYS
AGO WAS PART OF
MINE!



THEIR AUTOMATED
LOG TRANSMISSIONS
CONVINCED ME THAT
YOUR WORLD SHOULD
BE THE NEXT--

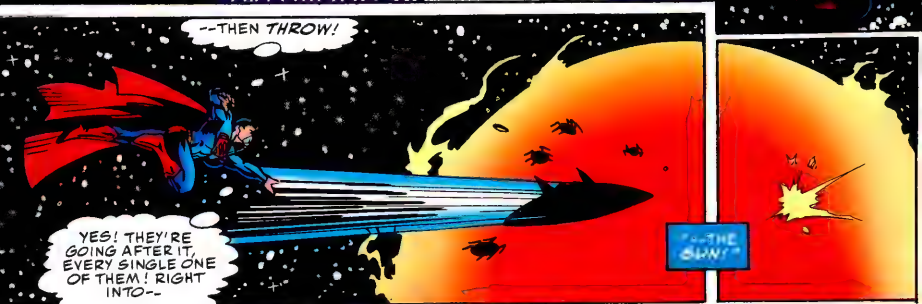
--TO
BE BLESSED WITH
TRANQUILITY!



THAT'S
SICK--AND
WRONG!

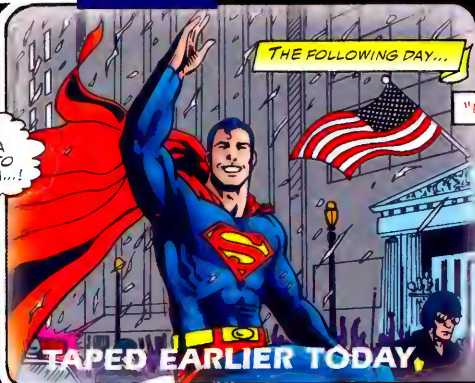
I'M GOING
TO STOP YOUR
H'TROS!

BECAUSE
THERE'S ONE
THING THE
LIVING CAN DO
THAT MACHINES
NEVER CAN!



THAT ALIEN
RACE I SAVED
WERE PACIFISTS;
THE MAD CREATURE
WHO TRIED TO
KILL THEM CALLED
HIMSELF A
PACIFIST.

I'VE
GOT A
LOT TO
LEARN...!



"NICE"?

METROPOLIS THROWS
A PARADE IN YOUR HONOR,
AND ALL YOU CAN SAY IS,
"IT WAS NICE"?

UH...
REALLY
NICE?

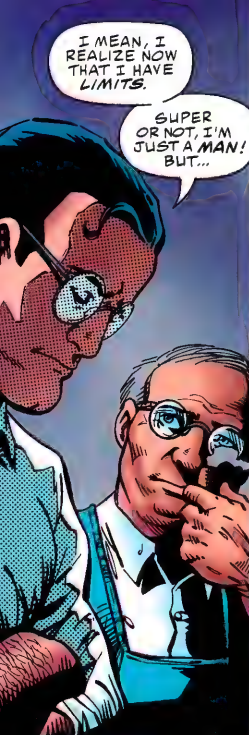
WHY DON'T YOU
BOYS GO OUT ON THE
PORCH, CHAT A
SPELL?

I'LL
HOLLER
WHEN THE
PIE IS
READY.

YOU SEEM
A LITTLE PFF?
PFF? WITHDRAWN,
CLARK.

YOU ALL
RIGHT?

I GUESS.



I MEAN, I
REALIZE NOW
THAT I HAVE
LIMITS.

SUPER
OR NOT, I'M
JUST A MAN!
BUT...



...I SAVE EARTH,
THEY THROW ME A
PARADE. I SAVE AN
ALIEN WORLD, THEY
SHOW ME THE
DOOR!

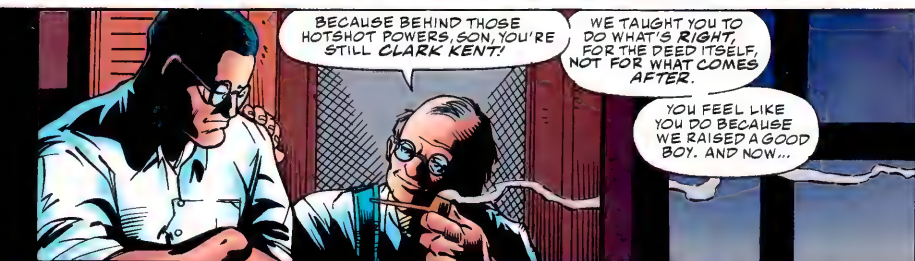
AND THAT
BOTHERS YOU?

NO, THAT'S
JUST PEOPLE BEING
DIFFERENT.



WHAT PUZZLES
ME IS THAT I DON'T
FEEL DIFFERENT ABOUT
IT! I'M NOT PROUD OF
ONE, OR TICKED OFF
ABOUT THE OTHER!

WHY?



BECAUSE BEHIND THOSE
HOTSHOT POWERS, SON, YOU'RE
STILL CLARK KENT!

WE TAUGHT YOU TO
DO WHAT'S RIGHT,
FOR THE DEED ITSELF,
NOT FOR WHAT COMES
AFTER.

YOU FEEL LIKE
YOU DO BECAUSE
WE RAISED A GOOD
BOY. AND NOW...



...HE'S
A GOOD
MAN.

Y'KNOW, PA,
I'VE BEEN TO
THE STARS, I'VE
SEEN THE
HEAVENS.

BUT I
DON'T THINK
I'LL EVER BE
AS SMART AS
YOU!

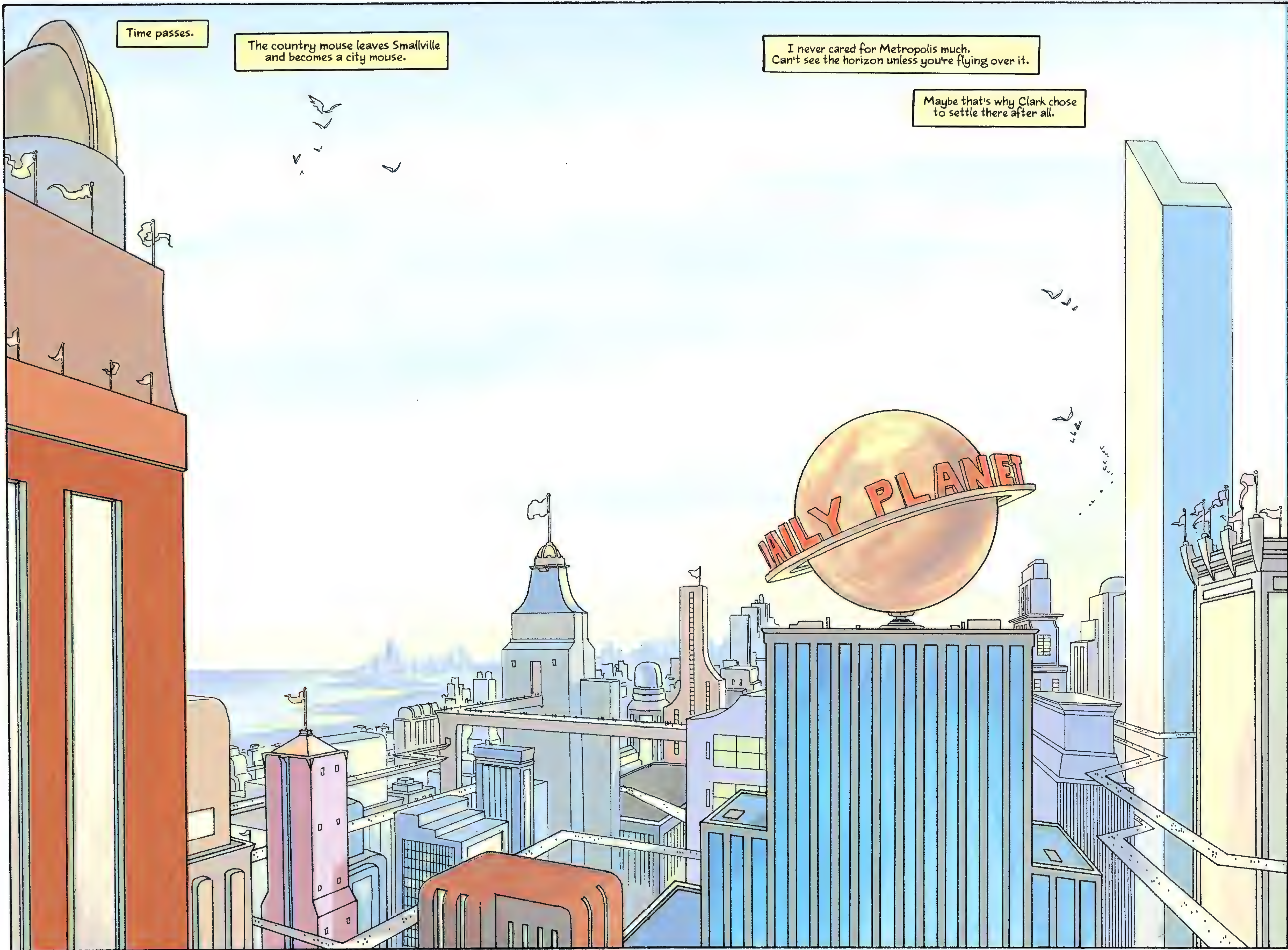
THE
ADVENTURE
BEGINS

Time passes.

The country mouse leaves Smallville
and becomes a city mouse.

I never cared for Metropolis much.
Can't see the horizon unless you're flying over it.

Maybe that's why Clark chose
to settle there after all.





THIS, PEOPLE, IS WHAT OUR READERS WANT!

AND THE MORE WE GIVE THEM, THE MORE THEY WANT!

AM I CLEAR?



CRYSTAL.

SURE, MR. WHITE.

They're an interesting bunch. Perry White, the gruff City Editor. Jimmy Olsen, the eager kid photographer.

ON IT, CHIEF!

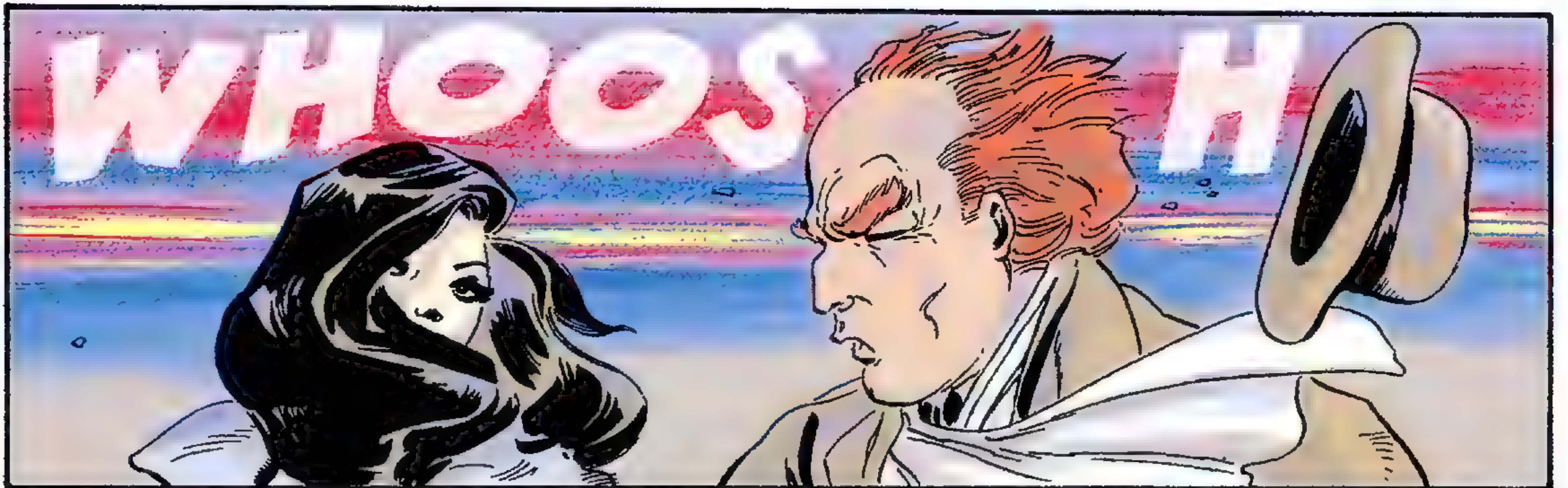
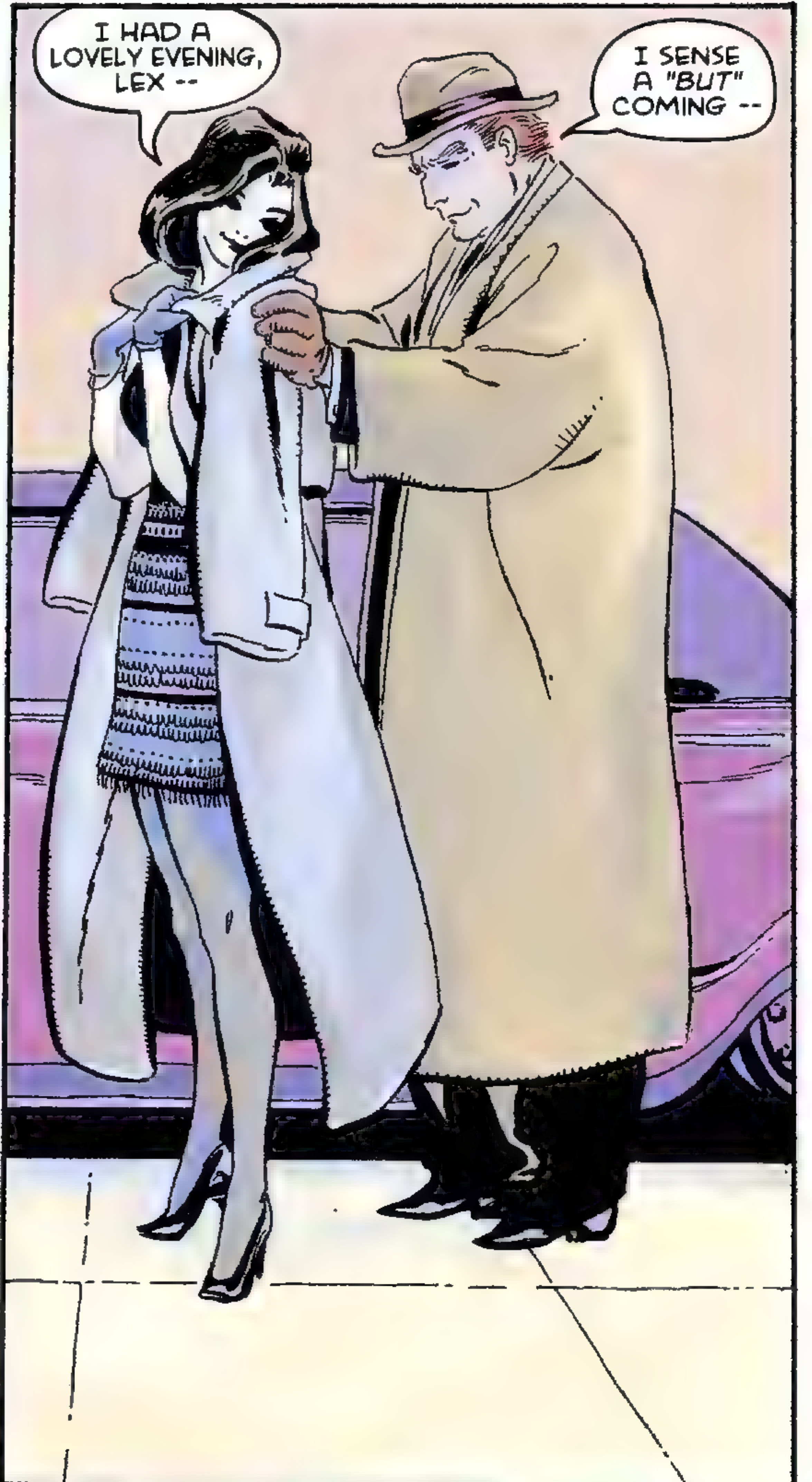
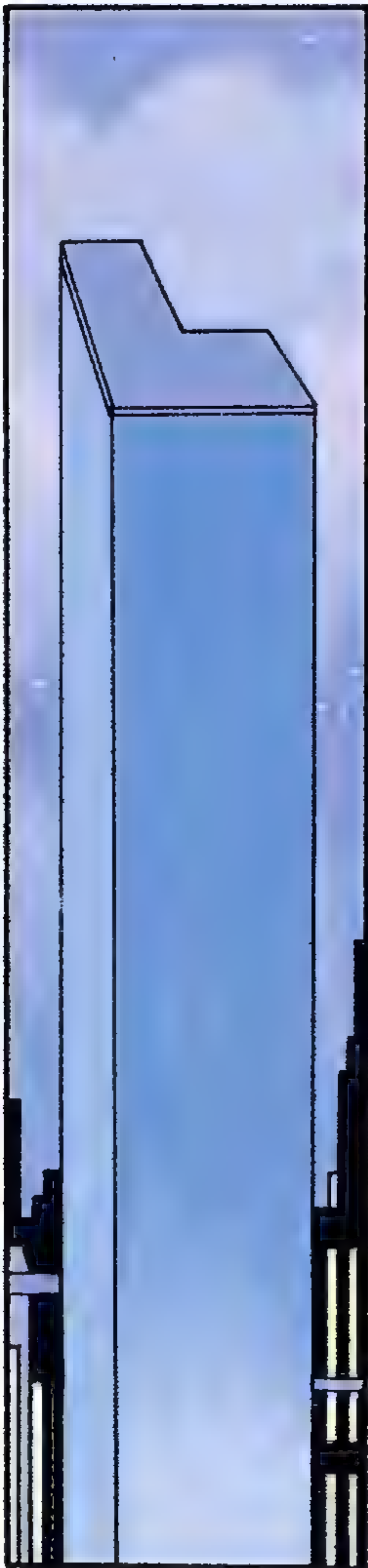


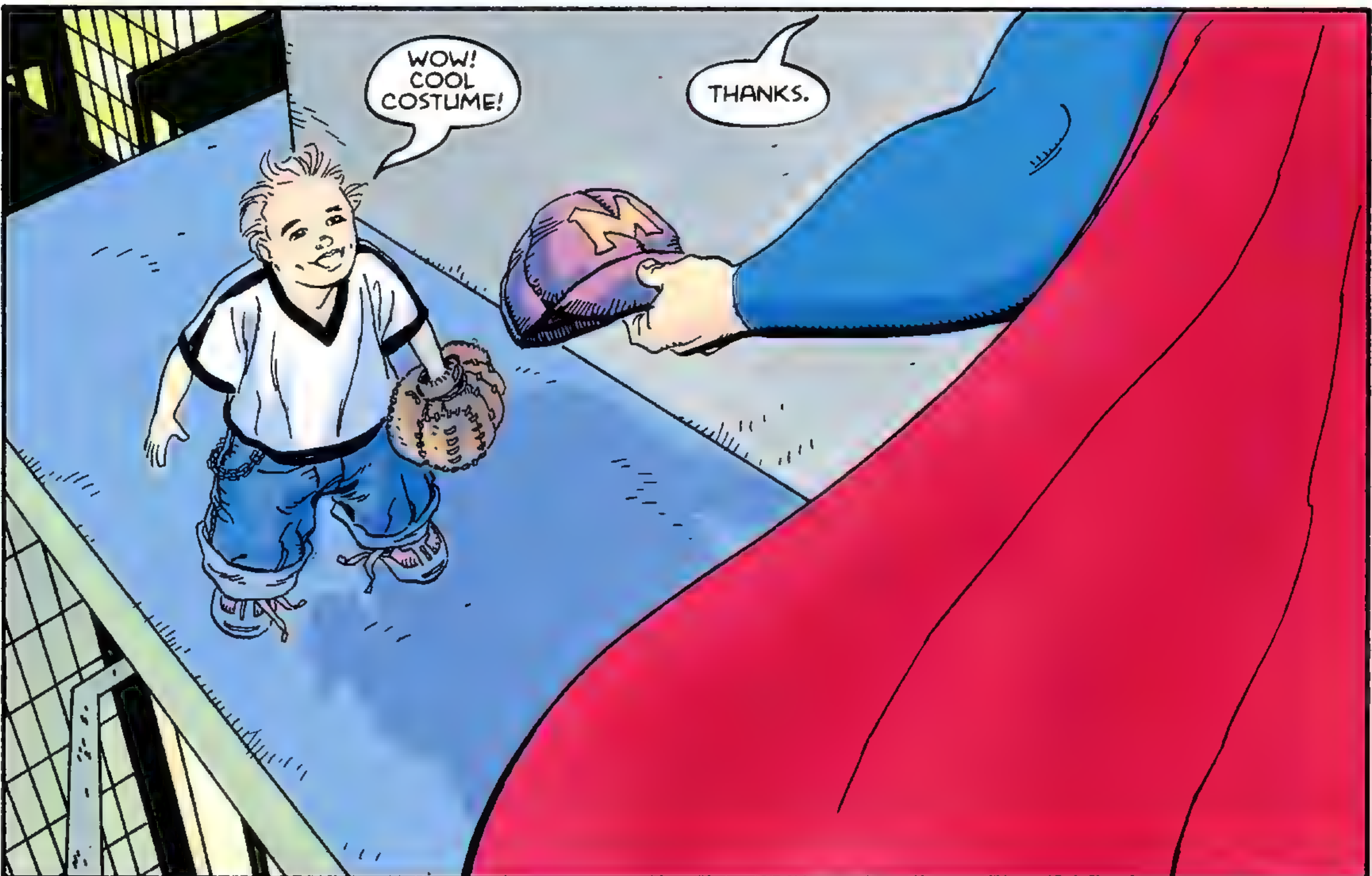
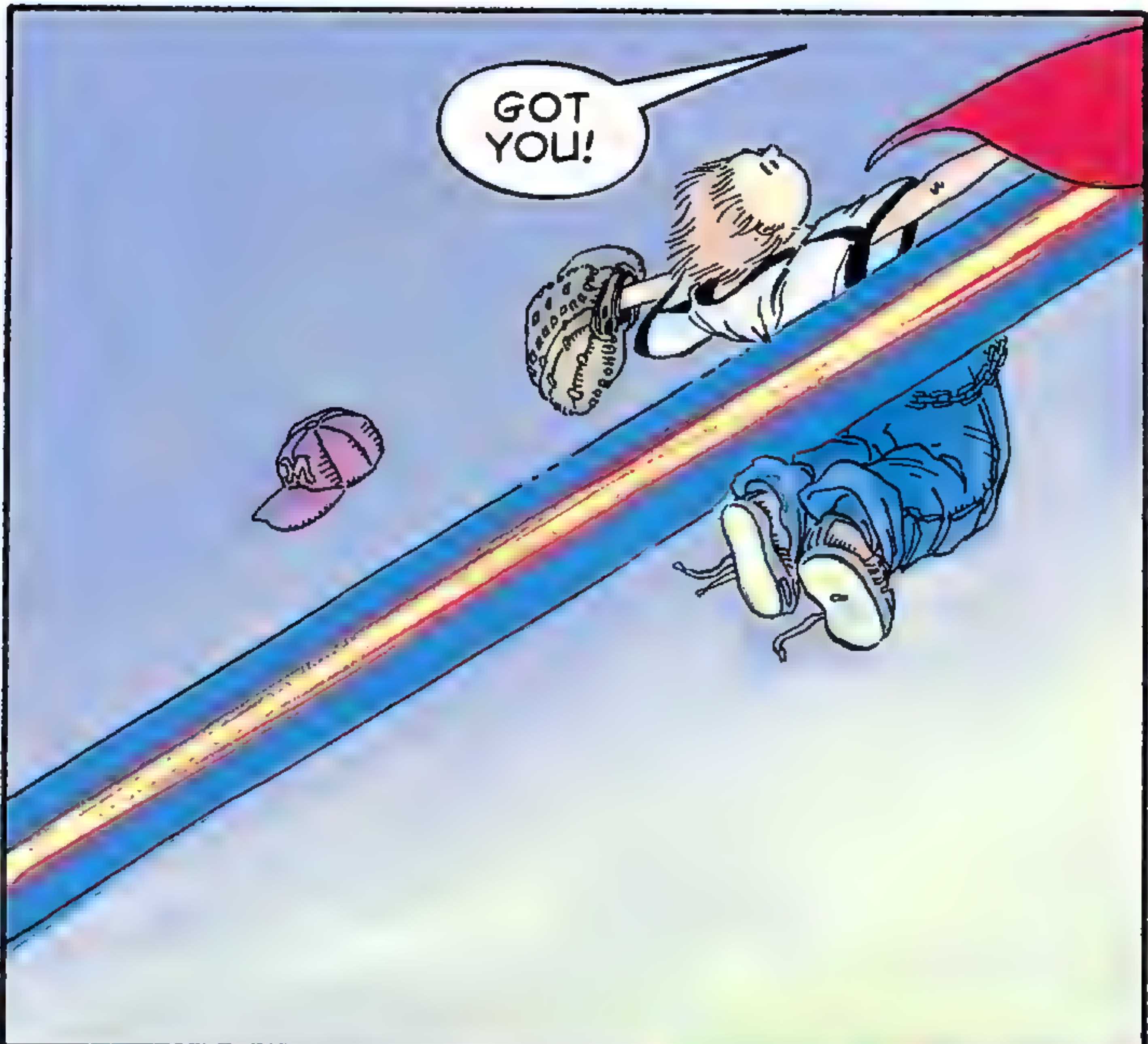
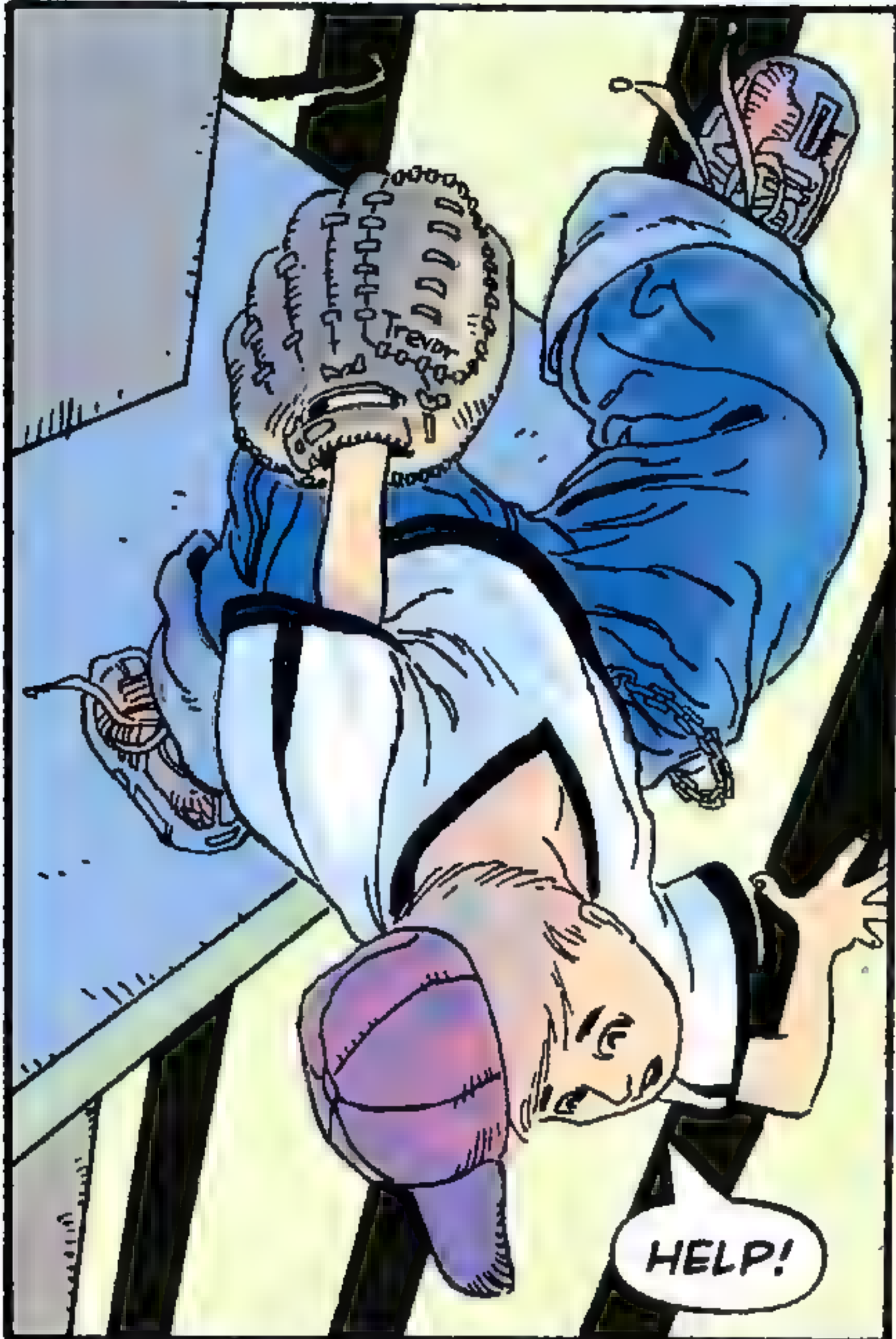
SAY, LOIS, IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY PLANS TONIGHT, I WAS WONDERING IF --

SORRY, SMALLVILLE, ALREADY HAVE PLANS WITH LEX.

NO MATTER WHAT PERRY THINKS, LUTHOR STILL MAKES PRETTY DAMN GOOD COPY.

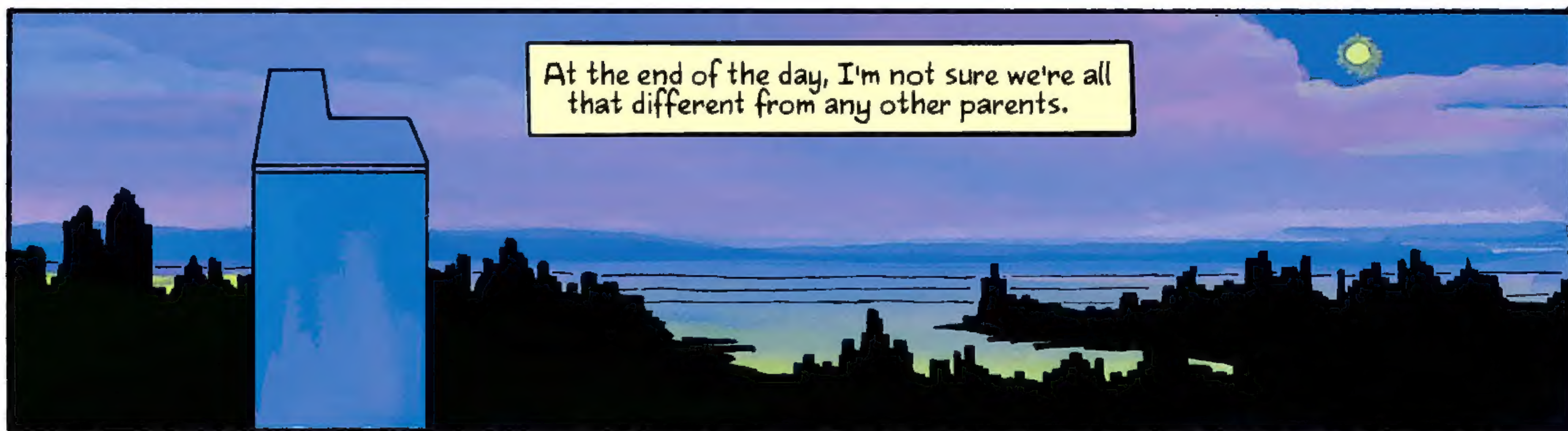
And Lois Lane, his rival reporter. Clark has his work cut out for him.



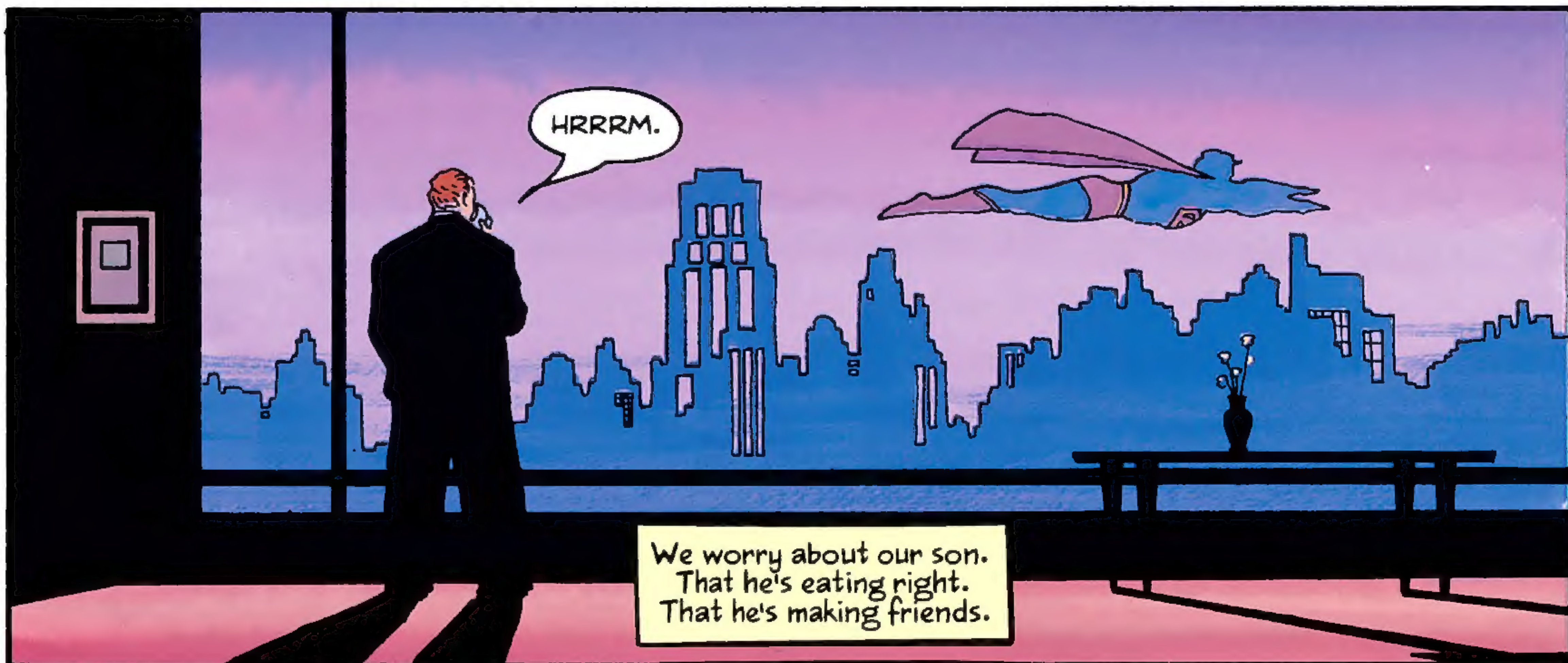




MY MOM
MADE IT FOR
ME.

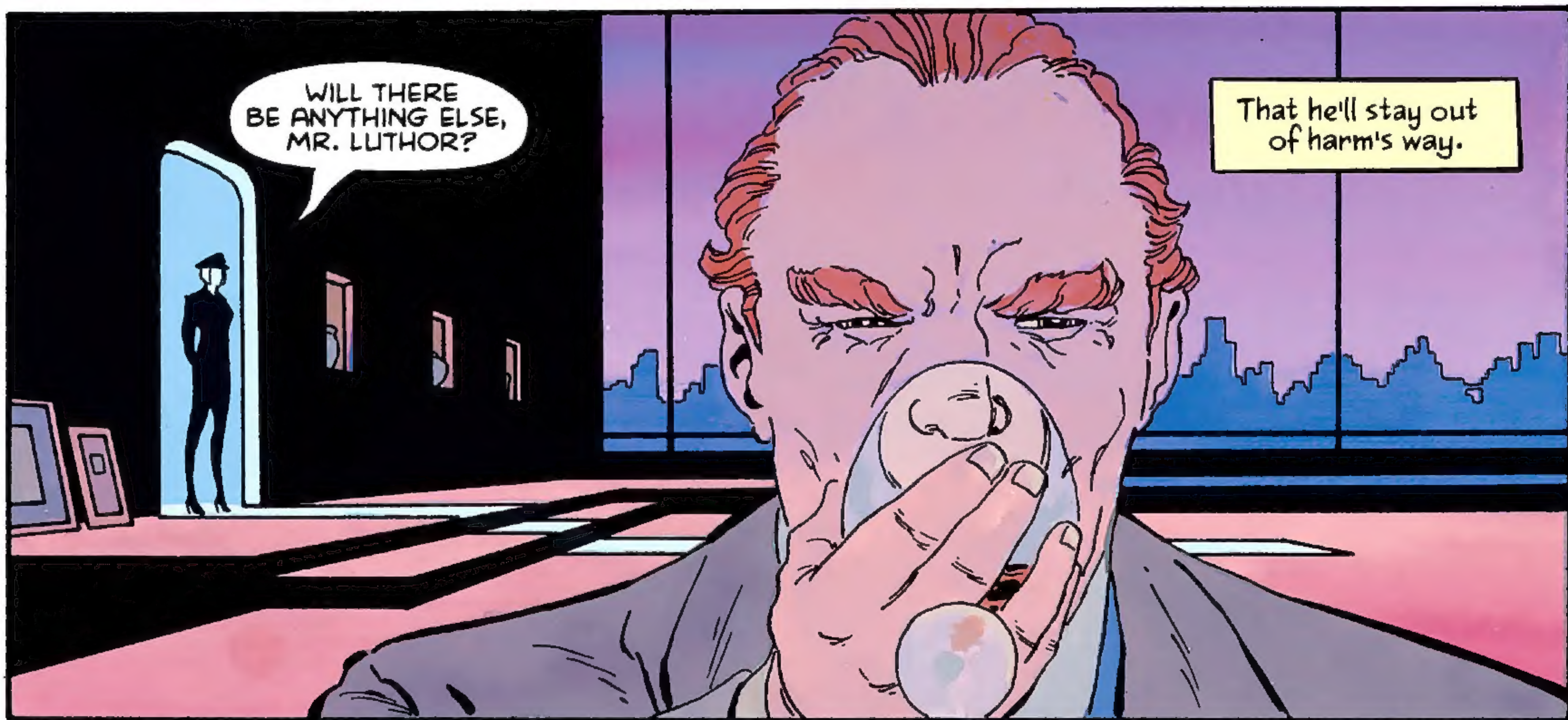


At the end of the day, I'm not sure we're all that different from any other parents.



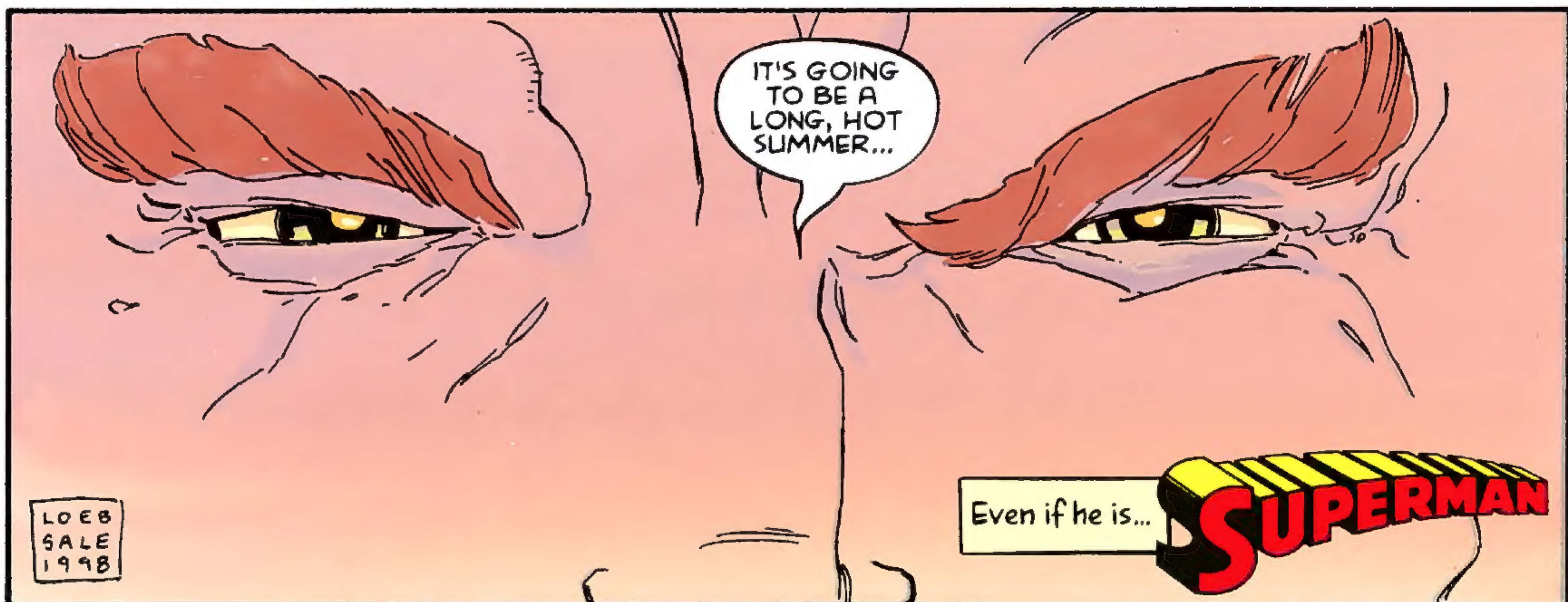
HRRRM.

We worry about our son.
That he's eating right.
That he's making friends.



WILL THERE BE ANYTHING ELSE, MR. LUTHOR?

That he'll stay out of harm's way.



IT'S GOING TO BE A LONG, HOT SUMMER...

Even if he is... **SUPERMAN**

Superman Post-Crisis Chronology
Volume 003 The Man of Steel

"The Exposure", first appeared in The Man of Steel issue #1, released July 10, 1986

John Byrne (writer), John Byrne (penciller), Dick Giordano (inker)

Excerpt from "The Story of The Century!", first appeared in The Man of Steel issue #2, released July, 1986

John Byrne (writer), Dick Giordano (penciller), John Byrne (penciller), Dick Giordano (inker), John Byrne (inker)

Excerpt from "Truth and Justice", first appeared in The Adventures of Superman Annual issue #7, released November, 1994

Karl Kesel (writer), Ron Wagner (penciller), Walter Simonson (penciller), Joe Rubinstein (inker), Walter Simonson (inker)

Excerpt from "The Story of The Century!", first appeared in The Man of Steel issue #2, released July, 1986

John Byrne (writer), Dick Giordano (penciller), John Byrne (penciller), Dick Giordano (inker), John Byrne (inker)

Excerpt from "Truth and Justice", first appeared in The Adventures of Superman Annual issue #7, released November, 1994

Karl Kesel (writer), Ron Wagner (penciller), Walter Simonson (penciller), Joe Rubinstein (inker), Walter Simonson (inker)

"Strange Visitor", first appeared in Superman Annual issue #7, released January, 1995

Roger Stern (writer), Christian Gossett (penciller), Jim Pascoe (inker), Stan Woch (inker)

"Loss and Space", first appeared in Action Comics Annual issue #7, released January, 1995

David Michelinie (writer), Darick Robertson (penciller), Brad Vancata (inker)

Excerpt from "Spring", first appeared in Superman: For All Seasons issue #1, released July, 1998

Jeph Loeb (writer), Tim Sale (penciller), Tim Sale (inker)



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